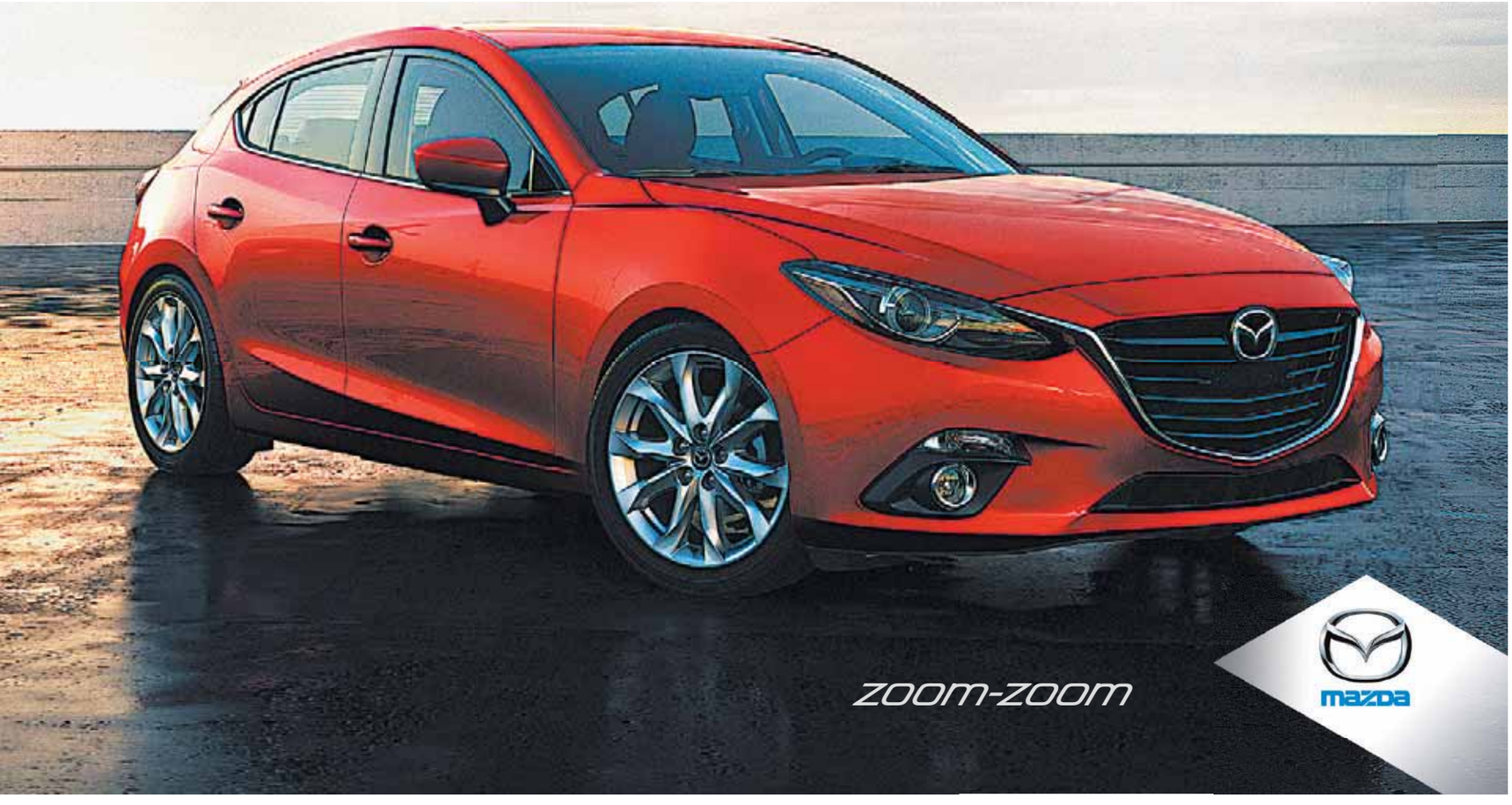
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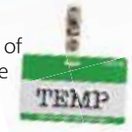
PAMELA WALLIN CLAIMS SENATOR SUSPENSIONS MAKE IT A 'SAD DAY FOR DEMOCRACY'

PAGE 8

You look like I need a drink

Another person who's not proud of hitting the booze on a night out? Shannon PAGE 12



So much promise, so little delivery

Cavaliers' Anthony Bennett was the No. 1 overall pick but now appears lost when the ball's in his hands PAGE 26

Natalie Portman is a comic con

Star of Thor: The Dark World says she never really got into comic books PAGE 15

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Like a bad habit...

Ford would be tough to kick. But it's not impossible: Mayor could be ousted if councillors sacrificed their seats

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

Toronto city councillors have a "last resort" legal option that could see Mayor Rob Ford removed from office, but they would lose their seats as well.

Even with Ford's announcement Tuesday that he will not resign despite admitting to having used crack cocaine "probably in one of (his) drunken stupors" while mayor, there are few legal options that would see him removed before his term ends next year.

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Linda Jeffrey said there is no way to remove the mayor unless he is convicted of a crime and begins serving jail time.

If Ford were to be charged with something and convicted, the court process would not likely be completed until his current term is over.

However, Jeffrey's office confirmed that the City of Toronto Act allows the minister to "declare all the offices of the members of the council to be vacant" if city council is unable to hold a meeting for 60 days, which would trigger a byelection. The spokesperson said that would require the majority of councillors to miss two consecutive monthly council meetings, preventing the meetings from achieving quorum.

According to Coun. Jaye Robinson, there has been talk at city hall of councillors purposely missing meetings in order to remove Ford, but people "aren't overly keen about it."

"People don't really like missing meetings," she said. "Our constituents expect us to move the city's agenda forward."

People are more comfortable trying to convince the mayor to step aside, which is what Robinson would like to see happen.

"I've heard it, but I don't have any sense of how popular that would be," she said. "I do know we're also getting inundated with emails — and they're interesting reads — where residents are saying we would like you to do anything and everything you can do to have the mayor resign."

If anything, using that measure to vacate council would be a "last resort," Robinson said.

One of the mayor's more outspoken critics, Coun. Adam Vaughan, would not say whether he'd support seeing council dissolved but said council can move forward on issues while Ford is politically sidelined.

"With Ford out of the way we no longer have a housing policy that revolves around which hole in a wall the mayor is screaming at," he said. "We can have a rational conversation without pitting Torontonian against Torontonian and doing damage to the city."

A distressed Mayor Rob Ford speaks to the media Tuesday following his admission of having smoked crack. Ford said he would not step down. More coverage on pages 3, 4, 6, 7. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Ford asked to join petition for access to 'crack video'

Scandal. Defence lawyers for one of the Project Traveller accused will ask judge for the video — and for the mayor to join their application

Lawyers representing Muhammed Khattak, one of three alleged gang members pictured alongside Mayor Rob Ford in a now notorious photo, are asking the courts to give them access to the video files police say they've recovered.

And they're inviting Ford to join them in their application.

Earlier this week, at a bombshell news conference, police Chief Bill Blair announced he now has two video clips relevant to extortion charges laid against the mayor's "close friend" Alexander "Sandro" Lisi.

One of those clips is a video of the mayor appearing to smoke crack cocaine and utter racist and homophobic remarks. It is unknown what's on the second clip.

Quoted

"We believe that where there's smoke there's fire and we believe it's in our client's interest, in the interest of justice and in the public's interest that the video be ordered released."

Defence lawyer Nathan Gorham

Investigators, using data recovery software, only just retrieved the clips last week, from a hard drive that was confiscated several months ago from one of dozens of Project Traveller accused. On June 13, police, armed with search warrants, swept up alleged members of the Dixon City Bloods.

On Friday morning, in front of Superior Court Justice Ian Nordheimer, defence lawyers Nathan Gorham and Daniel Brown plan to argue that when police seize items using a search warrant any "interested party" can make an application to view or receive copies of that evidence.

A woman is led by police to a cruiser as police raid buildings at 320, 330 and 340 Dixon Road during Project Traveller raids on June 13. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Because Kattak was arrested in Project Traveller and because he is in the picture that has been widely associated with the video, it's important, in order to defend him, to know what's contained in both the digital video files, explained Brown.

If successful, the judge could rule that within days the lawyers be given access to view or be given a copy of the files.

"Given that the mayor is an interested party and he says he wants to see these videos he can join us in our application to gain access to these videos on Friday," said Brown.

On Tuesday — during his stunning admission that he has smoked crack cocaine — Ford again reiterated that he would like to see the tape.

"I want everyone in the city to see this tape," he said. "I'd like to see this tape. I don't even recall there being a tape or a video and I know that, so I want to see the state that I was in." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Councillors on Ford's crack confession

Karen Stintz TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

After Mayor Rob Ford admitted to smoking crack cocaine Tuesday, Torstar News Service asked city councillors for their reactions. Here are some of their responses:

Coun. Frank Di Giorgio, Ward 12, York South-Weston:

"I'm sure many, many people that he knows that are closest to him, when they became aware that there might have been a dependency either on alcohol or drugs, would have I'm sure implored him to try and get some help.

"What council should do is essentially demonstrate that they can continue to work together to conduct the business of the city."

Coun. Karen Stintz, Ward 16, Eglinton-Lawrence:

"He has betrayed the people of Toronto. And he's betrayed his supporters that were giving him the benefit of the doubt as he was denying these allegations against him. He's admitted to smoking crack cocaine. And he said to the city that he can still lead the city, in light of these allegations, and I think it's disappointing.

"Now council will have to step in to fill a void that's been created by the behaviour of the mayor.

"The mayor has said he's going to stay, and so council now will come together and continue the business of the city.

"I think it would be helpful if Doug Ford would stop calling for the resignation of the police chief."

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ROB FORD REPORT CARD

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

GRADING OUR MAYOR ON THE ISSUES

Mayor Rob Ford made it quite clear Tuesday that he will not resign. Critics say city hall can't function under the cloud of scurrilous scandal that has — and will continue to — hover over the mayor's office. But how well has Mayor Ford been doing at actually running the city?

Here's a quick look at how well the mayor has kept some of his major campaign promises over the last three years. Grades are based on his ability to follow through on promises — not a judgment on whether his policies are of value.

MATT ELLIOT/METRO

A. ON LABOUR

Ford's had the most success keeping his promises when it comes to his dealings with the city's unions. After the 2009 garbage strike, where trash piled up in city parks, Ford pledged to contract out trash collection across the city and get tough on the rest of the unions. On garbage, he's only succeeded halfway — collection is still done by city workers east of Yonge Street — but, hey, it's a start.

Elsewhere, Ford moved quickly to make the TTC an essential service, meaning those workers can no longer go on legal strikes. He got a pretty good contract with CUPE, inking a four-year deal. He was knocked by some critics for handing the cops a juicy contract and library workers staged a brief work stoppage in 2011, but his supporters should feel pretty good about his labour negotiations, overall.

PHOTOS TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

B. ON TAXES

During the campaign, Ford promised to eliminate two new taxes introduced by his predecessor. He's succeeded in eliminating a municipal tax on vehicle registration, but hasn't been able to follow through on his pledge to eliminate the land-transfer tax. Ford's now saying that he'll try to reduce that tax by 10 per cent this year.

On the other hand, he's kept property tax and debt increases on the low side — until, that is, he agreed to issue $900 million in new debt for a subway extension.

C. ON TRANSPORTATION

Ford's transit platform called for major investment in subway infrastructure. He promised to substantially expand the subway network by extending both the Sheppard line and the Bloor-Danforth subway. All this was to be paid for with existing provincial funding, and finished by 2015.

Critics said it couldn't be done. They were right. Ford's subway dreams were off the rails until just recently, when he and council voted to replace the Scarborough RT with a subway.

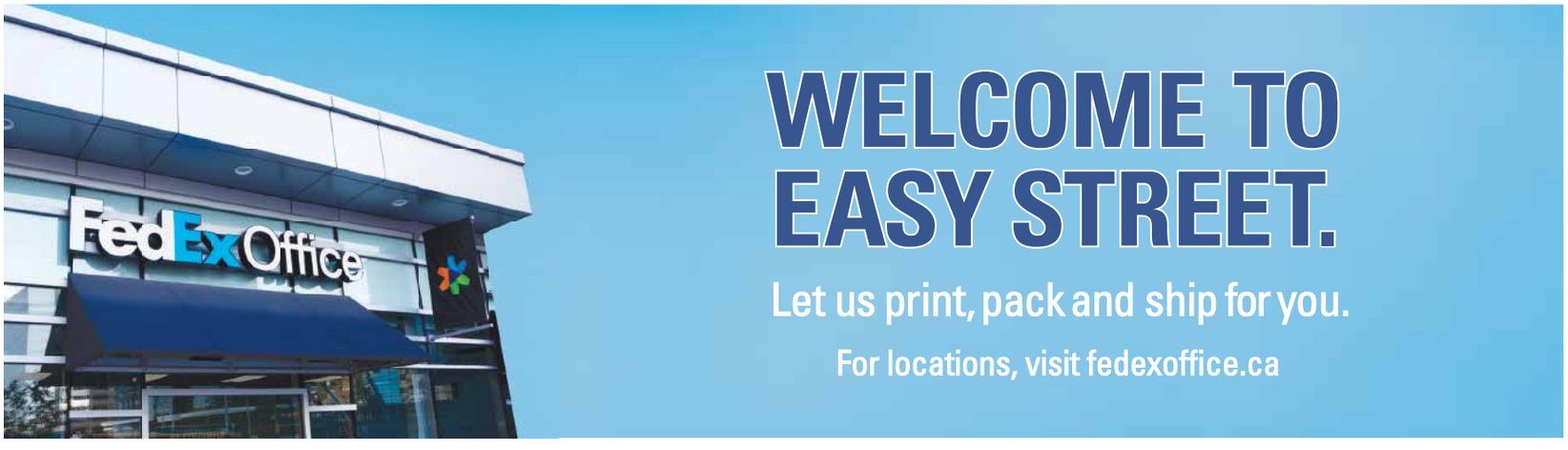
Other transportation policies — like removing some downtown streetcar routes — haven't gone anywhere, but Ford does have the city conducting a pilot project in which they've painted some curbs red to indicate no-parking zones.

C. ON THE GRAVY TRAIN

Ford made a big show about stopping the proverbial "gravy train" of government waste. So, has it stopped?

Ford did reduce the expense budgets available to councillors, saving about a million hypothetical dollars. And he did strengthen the "whistleblower protection" available to city staff who report wasteful practices.

But the untold mountain of savings he said he'd find never really materialized. In 2011, consulting firm KPMG was hired to look for duplication and non-essential programs, but wound up issuing a report concluding the vast majority of city departments and services are, in fact, essential. The gravy hunt continues.



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Should Ford face charges?

Depends who you ask. Legal experts split on whether mayor can now be taken to court

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

The Toronto Police Service was silent Tuesday on whether Mayor Rob Ford's admission that he smoked crack cocaine will affect its ongoing investigation — or lead to his arrest.

Spokesperson Const. Wendy Drummond said the only answer police would give to questions about Ford's confession was that the "information" was being forwarded to investigators.

Legal experts are split on whether Ford should be charged with possession.

Emma Rhodes, defence lawyer and adjunct professor at the University of Toronto, said she believes Ford's admission of crack use in combination with the video would be enough to charge him with possession, and she's had clients charged with less evidence.

For example, Rhodes said she's had clients taken to court for possession of a substance that turned out not to be crack.

"His admission is the strongest thing at this point," she said.

However, she hasn't seen a case before with a similar video and admission of drug use.

Rhodes said the fact Ford has not been charged shows that he is being treated with a privilege that isn't afforded to everyone, based on his role as mayor and economic position.

"There are families in the Dixon (Project Traveller) raids who had their doors knocked; they've had to go through eviction proceedings," she said. "There are kids sitting in jail because of those raids. That's the privilege. It's not right that people in a lower economic status are paying for this and he can skate."

Defence lawyer Daniel Brown agreed that Ford's admission of crack use is stronger evidence than the video. It would be enough to charge him, and people's own words are often used to convict them of a crime.

Brown said it appears Ford has been given special treatment because police did not attempt to bust him, even though the evidence uncovered in the surveillance of his meetings with alleged dealer Alexander (Sandro) Lisi would normally be enough to attempt an arrest.

"If these were just two young kids on the street, would they have been treated with the same amount of caution? I don't think so." he said.

But Osgoode Hall Law Prof. Alan Young disagreed with the other lawyers and said the vagueness of Ford's admission would prevent police from charging him.

"It's too non-specific," said Young, adding that police would have to prove what Ford smoked and when, and Ford has not revealed exactly when he smoked crack.

"Ninety-nine per cent of drug cases require a seizure of the substance and a testing of the substance to ensure it is a controlled substance. In very rare cases, people will be charged without testing when they've made an admission at the time of using the drug," he said.

However, the combination of the video and Ford's vague admission makes for an unusual situation, he said.

"It's a new situation that could lead to a novel charge and the court would determine if it's an acceptable way of charging and convicting somebody," he said. "But based on past practice, this is not something that would find its way into court."

Without proof that police have charged many others in the same situation, it would be "a great leap to assume some kind of police favouritism," he added.

Spud for Mayor protests outside city hall on Tuesday as Mayor Rob Ford apologized again after he admitted he has smoked crack cocaine.

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"There are kids sitting in jail because of those (Project Traveller) raids. That's the privilege. It's not right that people in a lower economic status are paying for this and he (Mayor Rob Ford) can skate."

Emma Rhodes, a defence lawyer

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Toronto mayor Rob Ford admits smoking crack in 'drunken stupor'
Ford has previously dodged questions about using the drug and still denies that he is an addict

Rob Ford makes international headlines after he admits he has smoked crack cocaine. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

All eyes on Toronto after mayor's crack confession

The world watches. International media run story on Rob Ford's drug use

Torontonians weren't the only ones reeling from Mayor Rob Ford's surprise admission that he has smoked crack cocaine.

Ford made a brief appearance outside his office Tuesday afternoon and said he smoked crack cocaine about a year ago, and does not remember it because he may have been in a "drunken stupor." News outlets worldwide ran the story, making Toronto's mayor some of the most read news around the globe.

Ford's now-infamous "Yes, I smoked crack" quote emblazoned CNN's homepage Tuesday afternoon, and "crack cocaine" was one of the site's top trending terms.

A story highlights section noted Ford previously said he had not used crack cocaine, and that pressure had been mounting from city councillors.

The "Yes, I smoked crack" quote was also translated into Spanish for Madrid-based newspaper El Mundo, and into German for Speigel Online.

No matter the language, the crack admission was a hot topic. Stories on Mayor Ford made the homepage of the BBC website, where it was the second-most-read story.

Closer to home, Ford's admission was picked up by a bevy of American publications, including the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post and Al Jazeera America.

Gawker, the American website that first published a story about the video of Ford smoking crack, posted a story recapping the major events in the mayor's drug scandal. A GIF of Ford falling while playing football illustrated the story, titled Rob Ford's Year of Living Dangerously.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fuel for comedians

- Mayor Rob Ford has also been a punch line for late-night comics lately. Daily Show host Jon Stewart took a few jabs at the mayor in his Monday night show, playing a clip of Ford saying he "cannot comment on a video that I have never seen or does not exist."
- On Tuesday, Stewart continued the jokes on Twitter, posting "Smoking crack. Making racist and homophobic remarks. I believe in Canada that's referred to as a hat trick."

Talking to kids about Ford proves to be tricky

Kids see Toronto's mayor on TV news apologizing for his bad behaviour, read online about his public drunkenness or they talk about his drug use while playing in the schoolyard at recess.

The Rob Ford scandal means parents are having to address big issues with their children who come home asking questions about what they've heard or seen.

Toronto dad and blogger Mike Boon wrote a blog post on talking to your children about Rob Ford, after discussing Ford with his two kids on the way to school Tuesday morning.

His 11-year-old son was particularly upset after hearing from classmates that the police had observed the mayor drinking in a park, and later found broken bottles.

"I raised my kids to respect nature, we go camping and walking … and the smashing of bottles really bothered him. My (nine-year-old) daughter wondered why he wouldn't just recycle them or get his money back."

Quoted

"My wish and dream for my children is that they not end up like the mayor of Toronto."

Toronto dad and blogger Mike Boon

He said the Ford situation has proved tricky: "(O)n one hand, we've got a mayor who lies and makes poor decisions … but I want them to understand that alcoholism is actually a disease" and alcoholics are deserving of empathy.

"My wish and dream for my children is that they not end up like the mayor of Toronto."

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Over and out: Senate votes to suspend Duffy, Wallin, Brazeau

Expenses scandal.
Drawn-out proceedings finally end with the trio losing pay, privileges for the duration of the parliamentary session

Patrick Brazeau, left, and Pamela Wallin are seen leaving the Senate Tuesday. Senators have voted to suspend Wallin, Brazeau and Mike Duffy for allegedly claiming improper expenses. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mike Duffy, Pamela Wallin and Patrick Brazeau were cast Tuesday into political limbo — suspended by the Senate and reviled by their former Conservative colleagues, including the prime minister who appointed them.

All three have maintained they're the victims of a politically motivated witch hunt aimed at putting a lid on a Senate expenses scandal that has engulfed Stephen Harper's government for almost a year.

"I think it's an extremely sad day for democracy," Wallin said as she exited the Senate chamber after the vote, her voice heavy with emotion.

"If we can't expect the rule of law in Canada, then where on earth can you expect it?"

Brazeau said nothing as he left the Senate. Duffy did not show up for the vote.

The trio retain the title of senator and their health, dental and life insurance coverage, but get no pay and lose their Senate privileges and resources for the duration of the current parliamentary session, which could continue for two years.

Harper's office expressed satisfaction with the suspensions, which followed weeks of emotional, often explosive debate, punctuated by bombshell revelations from Duffy that directly implicated the Prime Minister's Office in the scandal.

"Removing these three senators from the public payroll was the right thing to do," the PMO said in a statement.

"They should not be collecting a public paycheque."

While the vote to suspend the trio marks the end of a protracted and politically damaging debate, the shock waves wrought by Duffy are still reverberating for Harper and his Conservative government.

The RCMP is investigating the three senators, as well as former Liberal senator Mac Harb, and the steady drip of revelations from police documents filed in court is sure to continue to keep the scandal front and centre.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Still going...

Hours before the Senate voted to suspend the senators, Stephen Harper endured another question period grilling, this time about a leaked letter that shows the RCMP is seeking documents that "may potentially be evidence of criminal wrongdoing" by some in the Prime Minister's Office.

- In particular, investigators are looking for emails related to a "script" Mike Duffy said he was given by the PMO to cover up the fact that Nigel Wright gave him $90,000 to repay his disallowed expenses.

Sen. Mike Duffy
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Konystarter

Canadian looking for online help to fund hunt for Kony

Can you crowdfund the hunt for a war criminal on the run? A Canadian adventurer with experiences in Afghanistan and Somalia wants to do just that: raise funds and take a small band of former soldiers to find Joseph Kony.

Robert Young Pelton is the latest to join a line of private individuals and aid groups who are trying to corner the alleged mass murderer and members of his Lord's Resistance Army.

Pelton says he has done work for U.S. military commanders in Afghanistan, and that he excels at finding people who don't want to be found. If his plan is funded, he would start looking for Kony early next year, he said.

Pelton's $500,000 crowd-funding bid via Indiegogo has raised only about $7,500 in two weeks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Million Mask March is 'shining a light'

HALEY RYAN
Metro in Halifax

Dozens of people wearing Guy Fawkes masks walked the streets of downtown Halifax on Tuesday to shed a light on issues like bullying, corruption, animal rights and sexual violence.

The event was part of a worldwide Million Mask March of Anonymous members that coincided with Guy Fawkes Day on Nov. 5, with local members waving banners and carrying signs along the route.

"The message is ... seeking justice for victims who weren't able to find it themselves and my daughter is a perfect example of that," said Rehtaeh Parsons' father Glen Canning before the march.

Parsons, 17, took her own life in April after nearly two years of bullying following an alleged rape at a party when she was 15.

Canning said Anonymous helped spark attention around Parsons' case and continue to offer moral support for Canning and Parsons' mother Leah.

"These are the people who are speaking up and ... bringing (out) things hidden and shining a light on them," Canning said.

Since 2004, Anonymous has gathered attention through cyberattacks on government, religious groups like the Westboro Baptist Church and corporate websites.

A woman, who identified herself as Nova Scotlyn, spoke before the march about the importance of calling attention to cyberbullying, and how Parsons' death got her involved with social justice.

"I related to her on a personal level ... about 10 years ago I could have been Rehtaeh," Scotlyn said. "I was heartbroken."

Tech expert and Anonymous member Jon Blanchard said it's especially important for activists to expose war crimes and human-rights violations in other countries that are being covered up.

"There are many things that are wrong, but this is one of the few things that are very, very right," Blanchard said. "This is not a protest, it's a celebration."

"We make sure that you can't hide in the dark anymore," he added.

Supporters of hacktivist group Anonymous gather at Province House in Nova Scotia as part of the Halifax portion of the Million Mask March on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX

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Sochi Olympics torch goes to space, North Pole, bottom of deepest lake

Olympic flame. Four-month torch relay, which started Oct. 7, is the longest in Olympic history

For the first time in history, the Olympic torch will be taken on a spacewalk.

The 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics torch will be sent to the International Space Station on board a Russian spacecraft this week and astronauts will then carry it outside the station. Here's a look at the Sochi torch.

The space chariot

The torch will travel into Earth's orbit with the next space station crew, who blast off early Thursday from the Russian-operated Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Russia's Mikhail Tyurin, NASA's Rick Mastracchio and Koichi Wakata of Japan are heading to the space station on a Russian Soyuz rocket that has been emblazoned with the emblem of the Sochi Winter Games.

Flames in space

For safety reasons, the torch will not burn when it's onboard the space outpost. Lighting it would consume precious oxygen and pose a threat to the crew. The crew will carry the unlit torch around the station's numerous modules before taking it out on a spacewalk.

A torch first

The Olympic torch has flown into space before — in 1996 aboard the U.S. space shuttle Atlantis for the Atlanta Summer Olympics — but it has never yet been taken outside a spacecraft.

Just part of the journey

For most of the 65,000-kilometre route, the flame will travel by plane, train, car and even reindeer sleigh and 14,000 torch bearers are taking part in the relay that stops at more than 130 cities and towns.

Last month, the Olympic flame travelled to the North Pole onboard a Russian nuclear-powered icebreaker. Later this month it will sink to the bottom of the world's deepest lake, Lake Baikal. In February, the torch will be taken to the peak of Mount Elbrus, at 5,642 metres the highest mountain in Russia and Europe.

Hanging in the cosmos

Russian cosmonauts Oleg Kotov and Sergei Ryazanskiy, who are part of the space station's current crew, will take the torch into open space Saturday. Kotov says they are planning to take video of the torch, when the space station flies over the resort of Sochi.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A staffer works on Russia's Soyuz-FG booster rocket emblazoned with the emblem of the Winter Olympics in Sochi. DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Art seized by Nazis

Stunning find of lost treasure

It started with a routine check of an elderly man by German tax inspectors — and resulted in the discovery of an art hoard so vast and spectacular that no one yet knows how the story ends.

The find came in a wealthy district of Munich. Investigators found 1,400 paintings, drawings, engravings, woodcuts and prints created by an all-star roster of modern art, including: Chagall, Matisse, Picasso and Renoir.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Complex mission

Indian spacecraft bound for Mars

India on Tuesday launched its first spacecraft bound for Mars. The rocket carrying the Mars orbiter took off from the island of Sriharikota. If successful, India will be the fourth nation to visit Mars. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Searching for answers to barge mystery

X marks the spot. San Franciscans are buzzing about the structure Google is building at Treasure Island

San Francisco's mayor says he doesn't know what it is. Police say it's not their jurisdiction. And government inspectors are sworn to secrecy.

Google is erecting a four-storey structure in the heart of the San Francisco Bay but is managing to conceal its purpose by constructing it on docked barges instead of on land, where city building permits and public plans are mandatory. Construction became obvious a few weeks ago.

The Internet giant's actions at Treasure Island appear legal. But the mystery surrounding the bulky floating building — and a similar one off Portland, Maine — is generating rumours and worries.

Privacy experts, environmentalists and legal authorities say that whether it is a store to sell Google's Internet-connected glasses, a data-storage centre or something else, the secrecy may backfire because Silicon Valley residents are highly protective of one of the most scenic and environmentally sensitive bays in the U.S.

Google's usually responsive media relations team did not respond to repeated calls or emails over several days, but records and other official accounts identify the project as Google's.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Worries down by the bay

Deb Self, executive director of the environmental group Baykeeper, said whether the structure is a store or a data centre powered by wave action, there are going to be grave concerns.

A barge under construction is docked at a pier at Treasure Island.
JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Random biz fact of the day

250

250 CVs are received on average for each job position.
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Market Minute

DOLLAR
95.62¢ (-0.37¢)

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13,361.78 (no change)

OIL
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GOLD
$1,308.10 US (-$6.60)

Natural gas: $3.48 US (no change)
Dow Jones: 15,618.22 (-20.90)

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Meet Ms. Marvel: Kamala Khan

Marvel Comics is bringing Ms. Marvel back as a 16-year-old daughter of Pakistani immigrants living in Jersey City named Kamala Khan. The character is among the first to be a series protagonist who is both a woman and Muslim. She can grow and shrink, and is able to shape-shift into other forms.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ MARVEL COMICS

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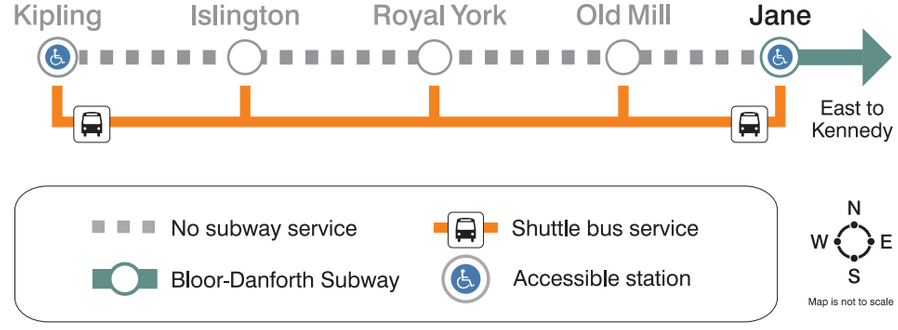

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Douglas Coupland

Douglas Coupland's latest novel, Worst. Person. Ever., is available from Random House Canada.

Day 3

metronews.ca/temp

Pick your battles

Migrant workers raise a little hell on a Prairie farm

It didn't last, but a group of temporary, foreign farm workers at a small Prairie town were the first in Canada to accept a collective agreement.

The 14 workers, who travelled from Mexico to Portage la Prairie, Man. every summer to work picking crops like onions and broccoli, voted to ratify a three-year collective agreement through the United Food and Commercial Workers in the summer of 2008.

But a Supreme Court of Canada ruling in 2011 quashed the right of migrant workers in Canada to collectively bargain with their employers.

METRO IN WINNIPEG

Wage gap

An hour of your time for $5.44 less

So how do temps stack up to the rest of the work force when it comes to pay?

Well, there's a pretty stark difference.

Across Canada, temps earn, on average, $19.58 per hour — $5.44 less than permanent workers, according to Statistics Canada.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Temp Enjoys Thursday Meal Special at Mister McFunbury's

Rarely have I ever felt so much like Sigourney Weaver at the end of an Alien movie. Around me nothing but casualties and disaster while I, Shannon the survivor, exit the doomed mothership to hop into a taxi to go on my glamorous date with a high-flying Asian businessman.

"Where to, Miss?"

"Mister McFunbury's."

"The one where they had the hostage taking last September?"

"No, the one by the off-ramp that takes you to the oil refineries."

"Right."

Mr. Xu (pronounced Mr. Shoe) was standing by the cigarette machine as I was told he would be. He wasn't hot, but he wasn't unhot, either — that's an important distinction. He was my age — late twenties, kind of Banana Republicky, and he was quite relaxed given the clattering of walkers stemming from "It's A Senior's Shrimpy Thursday!"

"I'm Shannon."

"I am Mr. Xu."

"Let's grab our seats."

We sat down, and my first instinct was to figure out Mr. Xu's language capacity. "How long have you been in the city?"

"Two very glorious nights."

"I'm glad they've been glorious. Is your hotel OK?"

"Most gracious hotel. Thank you."

Oh dear. I was going to be sitting with a fortune cookie all night. Well, OK. "Why don't we get into the McFunbury's spirit, Mr. Xu?"

"That would be most excellent."

I'm not totally proud of myself, but I went right for the booze — we hadn't even ordered food and I was trashing the three Sarahs. "My issue with Sarah No.1, Mr. Xu, is that on the first anniversary of Whitney Houston's death she Facebooked: "One year later, heaven took an angel from Earth too soon."

I'm not totally proud of myself, but I went right for the booze — we hadn't even ordered food and I was trashing the three Sarahs.

"Most unfortunate."

"I'll say. And my issue with Sarah No. 2 is that at a Friday staff lunch she suggested "we girls" go off on our own and have a "cuddle puddle" to discuss things "the boys just wouldn't understand."

"So sorry."

"And my issue with Sarah No. 3 — killer martinis, by the way — is that she insists on microwaving popcorn with that nauseating fake butter smell. She says, 'Well I think it smells like fun. If you don't like fun then I feel sorry for you'."

"Most ungracious."

I stared at the laminated menu. "What do you think you'll order, Mr. Xu?"

He then looked at me and said, "Well, I'm not feeling very surf-and-turfy — you know, it's a mood that you're either in, or you're not. And I kind of carbo-loaded at lunch — doing a half marathon in three weeks — so I guess I'll get a clubhouse with McFunbury Sauce on the side. You?"

"You, Mr. Xu, are a total dick."

"Let us both have one more most glorious martini. Clean or dirty?"

TO BE CONTINUED...

Random fact of the day

How cute is this?

- Sea otters hold hands when they sleep and eat in order to keep from drifting apart.

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GIVE HUGS NOT DRUGS, ER, NOT

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

They're at it again.

"They" of course, are those faceless, officious minions of Politically Correct Behaviour who are ruining all the fun.

Just when you think They can't get any more faceless or officious, They pull something like a ban on touching for little kids, with consequences for those five-year-olds who dare to hold hands.

Yes, you read that right. Kindergarten kids at Coghlan Fundamental School in a Vancouver suburb were told on Friday they couldn't touch each other, no way, no how.

No holding hands, hugging, pushing each other on the swing, playing tag or doing anything that involves contact.

And if you don't think They are serious, They sent this sternly-worded memo to parents:

"We will have a zero-tolerance policy with regards to hands-on play, resulting in the missing of playtime and trips to the office for those who are unable to follow the rules."

"OK," says the principal to the kid, "what are you doing in my office?"

"I hugged Madison."

"That's pretty serious. That sort of thing could lead to tag or even, gasp, an outbreak of holding hands. No recess for you!"

Why? Why? Glad you asked. Because this kind of stuff (touching) is allegedly dangerous and has caused some injuries, maybe. No specifics because there is nothing real that could ever justify such a ridiculous ban.

They can't help themselves. A couple of years ago, a Toronto school banned all balls: soccer balls, basketballs, baseballs, footballs, volleyballs, everything except those foam Nerf balls. Try playing basketball with a Nerf ball.

The idea behind this nonsense appears to be: "Yeah, it's all fun until someone gets hurt." And, to be honest: "We realize this looks completely nuts but our lawyers told us to do it, and we do everything They tell us to do."

But really, can They ever go far enough? Sure, a ban on touching will discourage physical harm, but what about the mental anguish of my five-year-old? Sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will cause me to complain to the Human Rights Commission. Better issue a ban on talking.

What about breathing? Breathing causes the intake of particulate matter that can lead, later in life, to Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. Better ban breathing.

Seriously, this is evidence of a massive failure of nerve at the adult level. Either that or there's a growing reluctance to kiss the boo-boo or wipe away the tears, at least without wearing rubber gloves. It's much easier to put the little gaffers in a hermetically-sealed bubble and get back to the serious business of contract negotiations. Now about that sick leave…

ZOOM

Are these up close or far away?

Answers, clockwise from top left corner: micro: wing of a Green Darner dragonfly; macro: desert region of Arabian Peninsula; micro: surface of a rotted human tooth; macro: dune patterns in the Erg Oriental, Algeria. PHOTOS COURTESY STEPHEN YOUNG AND PAUL KELLY

Photos test our perception of size

These pictures test our ability to tell apart the microscopic and macroscopic worlds.

Geographer Stephen Young and biologist Paul Kelly of Salem State University collected more than 50 such images for a joint exhibition at Salem and at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. METRO

Q and A

What an expert says

STEPHEN YOUNG
Professor of Geography, Salem State University, Mass.

How can I guess which is small or large-scale?
Age and education level do not seem to decide if people will get it right. School kids have been doing as well as college students and the general public. Professionals who have used electron microscopes or satellite imagery tend to do better, but even they misidentify some as well.

Best aspect of the project?
There is something deeply intriguing about trying to figure out at what scale the image is and then to be so surprised when it is the opposite. To think something is a millimetre and to find out that it is 1,000 kilometres is quite surprising.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

There's no shortage of apps and services that will allow you to stream music to your mobile device, but none get more use on my iPhone than SoundCloud. It's free, the selection is endless and just letting it play is the safest path to discovering something new. Try these accounts for great electronic music.

CONTRIBUTED

DFA Records:

Easily the reigning champ of the disco renaissance we've been hooked on for the past few years, the home of James Murphy and LCD Soundsystem also happens to be extremely generous with keeping their feed updated with new tracks. (soundcloud.com/dfa-records)

Future Classic:

Just as danceable as DFA's output, but with occasional forays into beachside guitar pop and bittersweet ballads. There are already hundreds of songs posted for you to work your way through. Get ready to favourite a chunk of them. (soundcloud.com/futureclassic)

Ninja Tune:

The London-based label is among your best bets for when you're in the mood for something a little on the strange side. It's cool, though. There's nothing threateningly interesting. Just endless creative restlessness. (soundcloud.com/ninja-tune)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: So now Rob Ford has admitted smoking crack, tell Metro what you've done #inoneofmydrunkenstupors

@necksbest: I may have listened to Justin Bieber #InOneOfMyDrunkenStupors. But I don't follow him and I'm not an addict

@jmmelanson: ran for mayor of Toronto and won accidentally #InOneOfMyDrunkenStupors

@Jdubs12: #InOneOfMyDrunkenStupors I drank some coke, a cola.

@katangus: #InOneOfMyDrunkenStupors I ordered both the paperback and Kindle editions of 50 Shades of Grey.

@JGregRandall: I was in Seattle last year and did not visit the Space Needle. What was I thinking? #drunkenstupor

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It's no Baby Sitter's Club, but Thor will do, I guess

Natalie Portman.
The star talks about her obsession with a certain book series and working with legend Anthony Hopkins

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Natalie Portman stars in Thor: The Dark World, which opens this weekend.
ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Despite starring in two movies based on a Marvel hero Natalie Portman says, "I've never gotten into comic books."

This weekend she reprises the role of Jane Foster, scientist and love interest to the God of Thunder in Thor: The Dark World.

Portman may not have spent time reading comics but she can understand the obsession fans have with Thor's characters because she was once a fan girl herself.

"The one thing I ever got into, like, that is really dorky," she says, "until I was 12 or 13 I was obsessed with the Babysitter's Club, a series of books for girls. There was a new book every month and the day the book would come out I had to go to the bookstore and get it and read it on the way home.

"The writer's name was Ann M. Martin and my friends and I would look in the phone book and call every Ann Martin trying to get her.

"One time she came to our bookstore and did a signing. The week before I wrote a packet about what her next book should be about, with drawings, and I waited in line for three hours and gave it to her and she was like, 'OK weirdo.'"

Playing heroine Jane Foster is miles away from her Academy Award winning role in the dark psychological drama Black Swan.

Portman admits she "never thought I'd get the chance" to act in a superhero movie, "which is why whenever they ask I say yes."

Also appealing is the chance to work with Anthony Hopkins, who she describes as "a giant among actors."

She shares several scenes with the veteran actor and says she was "completely intimidated" by him.

"I kept messing up lines around him because I was so nervous but he was so sweet about it. He'd say, 'That's a really hard line to say.'"

Many of her scenes with Hopkins take place on Asgard, the celestial planetoid home to Thor and his family, which raises the question, does Portman believe there is life on other planets?

"That question makes me think of another movie. In Antz all the insects are around a campfire," she says, laughing, "and they say, 'Do you think there's something bigger than us out there?'

"It totally feels like that. Of course there has to be something else out there. I don't know what it is but it would be completely silly to think that we're 'it.'"

Analysis

What's behind the hammer?

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

It's hammer time at the movies this weekend.

Thor: The Dark World opens in theatres, bringing with it Chris Hemsworth as the sledgehammer wielding superhero with his rippling muscles, crazy mythology and Dark Elves.

The Marvel comic series borrowed the character from Norse mythology, co-opting the God Of Thunder's most famous weapon, the Mjölnir. In myth the name translates to "that which smashes," and refers to his hammer, a fearsome club capable of levelling mountains, causing lightning flashes and boomeranging back when he throws it.

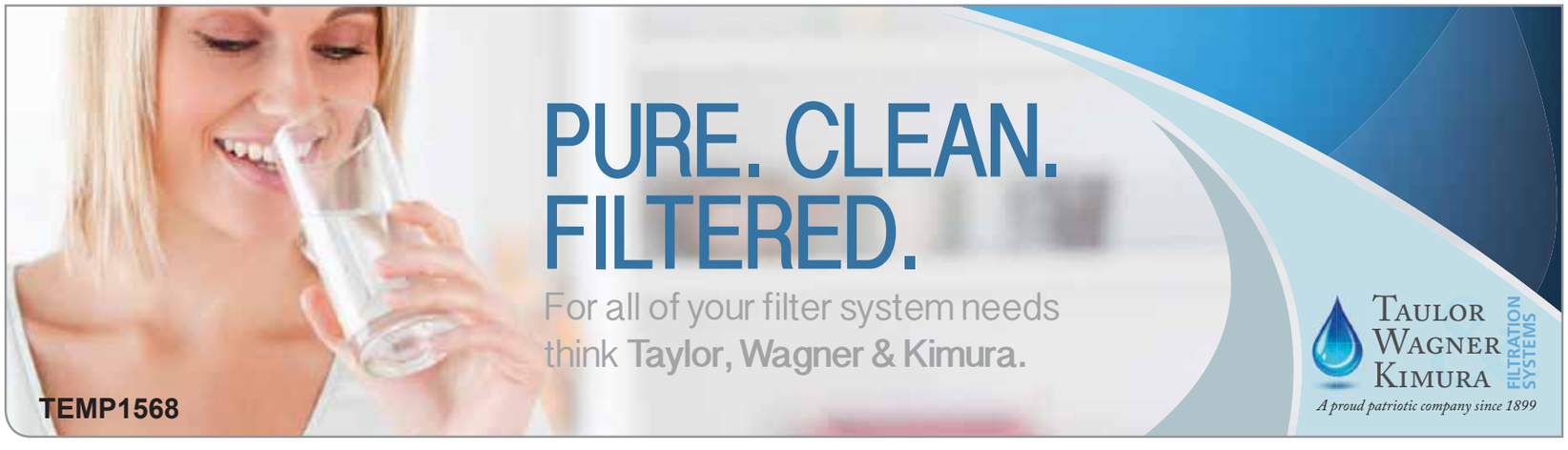
"The power within Mjölnir," he says, "doth rage like the winter storms bursting upon the shore in furious assault!"

According to Nordic legend the mallet was forged by dwarven brothers Sindri and Brokkr but Marvel embroidered the lore, adding to the story the fictional Asgardian metal uru as the main component of the basher and an inscription that reads, "Whosoever holds this hammer, if he be worthy, shall possess the power of Thor."

Thor: the man, the myth, the legend.

The image of Thor flying through the air, propelled by Mjölnir, is the iconic picture from the comics and movies, but not from mythology.

According to legend, Thor's preferred mode of transport was a chariot drawn by two 1,700-pound warrior goats named Toothgnasher and Toothgrinder.



Maybe it's because the indignities suffered by unpaid college students and post-grads provides sexier fodder, but Hollywood is much more enamoured with interns than temps. The spotlight hasn't completely eluded temporary workers, although sunny movies about short-term desk jockeys are in short supply. Temp flicks tend to go dark.

MIKE DOJC/FOR METRO

5 Temps on film

Clockwatchers

Clockwatchers casts an incisive eye on the everyday travails faced by short-term jobbers (Toni Collette, Parker Posey and Lisa Kudrow) from nobody knowing your name to dealing with maladroit managers, and being shunned in the cafeteria by permanent co-workers. **Lasting Effect:** This office-culture classic set the bar for future films about mind-numbing drudgery, patronizing bosses, and grand theft office supplies.

In the Company of Men

In order to get revenge on womankind two middle managers (Aaron Eckhart and Matt Malloy) conspire to emotionally destroy a deaf temp. They make a pact to make her fall in love with each of them and then break her heart. **Lasting Effect:** Neil LaBute's filmmaking career achieved liftoff after this adaptation of his play. Critics salivated over this envelope pusher and kept on drooling until he remade The Wicker Man.

The Temp

When a cookie company exec's admin assistant takes a leave of absence, the temp who fills in (Lara Flynn Boyle) appears to be a miracle worker. But alas, this is a thriller — so she could possibly be a psycho. That means there's a mounting body count and a twist at the end as tends to be the prerogative of early '90s flicks in the Basic Instinct mould. **Lasting Effect:** Lara Flynn Boyle's bad girl cred remains intact. She recently played the evil witch in Hansel & Gretel Get Baked.

Office Space

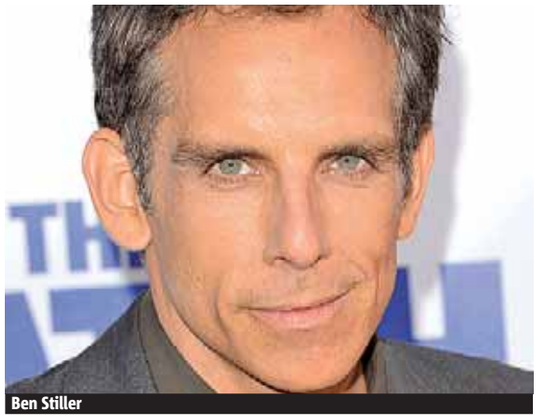
This cubicle comedy about working stiffs driven to the edge by their Kafka-esque work environment is a Gen X fave. Office Space may not ostensibly be about temping but it's worthy of inclusion. The inspiration for this classic was a soul-sucking temp job director Mike Judge had in which he was tasked with alphabetizing purchase orders. **Lasting Effect:** A red Swingline stapler is featured prominently in the film but the company didn't have a model that colour — a set designer painted it. Spurred by rabid Office Space fans, Swingline debuted their Rio Red, still a hot seller.

Haiku Tunnel

Absent both Japanese poetry or an underground passageway, this art house agony-of-office-work flick centres around a serial temp in both his career and personal life who is placed at a law firm where he takes on a permanent position. The change from temp to perm wreaks psychological havoc and the former temp can't seem to complete a menial task of mailing 17 of his boss' letters. **Lasting Effect:** The expression "go perm" received a mild pickup.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Ben Stiller

There's something about Stiller, and it has to do with 'hair gel'

Ben Stiller admits he didn't have much faith in what's become the most memorable scene from There's Something About Mary, in which Cameron Diaz mistakes semen hanging from Stiller's ear for hair gel.

"My big thing with that scene was that I argued with the Farrelly brothers all during the shot, asking how he could not feel it on his ear? I was lobbying them to have a back-story that the character had somehow, like, lost sensitivity in his ear, like he had gotten hit as a kid or something," Stiller tells The New York Times.

Eminem. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Eminem on the defensive once again

Eminem is taking fire for still using homophobic terms in his lyrics on his latest album, so he's doing his best to explain himself.

"That word, those kinds of words, when I came up battle-rapping or whatever, I never really equated those words" to actually meaning gay, he tells Rolling Stone.

"It was more like calling someone a bitch or a punk."

The 41-year-old rapper insists it's all in good fun and people know how he really feels.

"I say so much s— that's tongue-in-cheek," he says of the lyrics.

"But the real me sitting here right now talking to you has no issues with gay, straight, transgender at all. I'm glad we live in a time where it's really starting to feel like people can live their lives and express themselves. And I don't know how else to say this; I still look at myself the same way that I did when I was battling and broke."

The Word

No, it's just a gentleman's club, guys... with bed sheets

So apparently that Brazilian brothel Justin Bieber hung out at over the weekend wasn't exactly a brothel per se, according to some sources that are trying to help salvage the 19-year-old pop star's reputation.

Centauros is more like "an old-fashioned gentleman's club," a source tells E! News.

"For what it is, it is high end and it's not cheap to get in there. There is an entrance fee. Playboy-types go there and local businessmen and tourists."

Of course, that doesn't quite explain why the establishment would have bed sheets bearing its logo on hand — one of which Bieber hid under as he was rushed out of the building.

And as for the two women from the club who left with Bieber?

"The girls that work there — some have clothes on and some kind of don't," the source explains. "They are all in there to make money. They don't work for the club."

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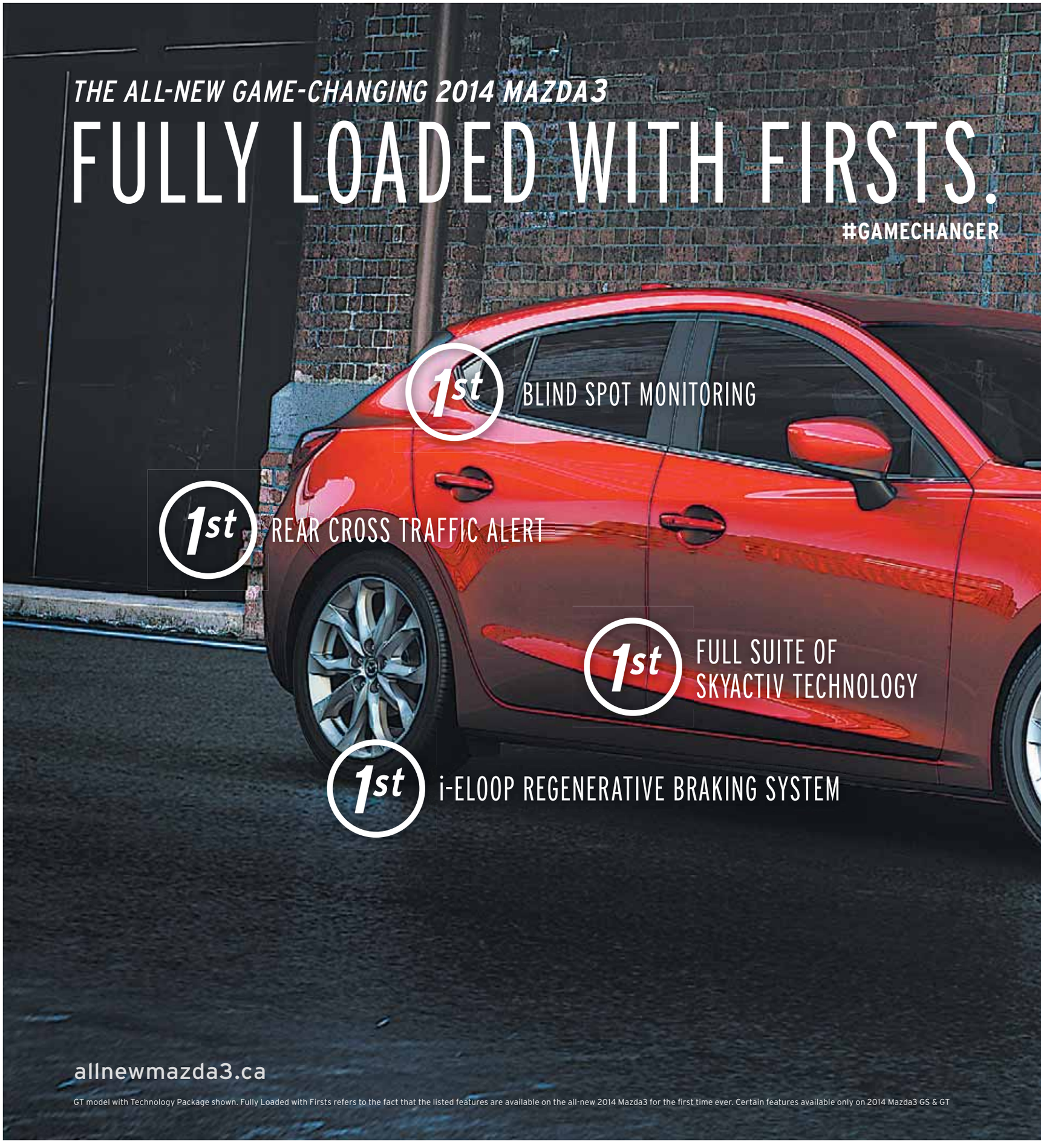
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The lost link to golf heaven

Bermuda. Island's plethora of renowned courses attract players from around the world

BRIAN KENDALL
canadiangolftraveller.com

Bermuda is renowned for its pink sand beaches, turquoise waters and refined atmosphere. Just as unforgettable are Mid Ocean, Port Royal and the other golf courses on an island of almost celestial beauty.

"You go to heaven if you want to," Mark Twain famously said of Bermuda. "I'd rather stay here."

Founded in 1609 by survivors of a British shipwreck, Bermuda has long enjoyed a reputation as one of the most beautiful places on Earth. Sailboats and luxury yachts dot the harbour at Hamilton, the bustling capital, where colonial-style houses topped by stepped roofs to collect rainwater are painted in a palette of pastel colours. Oleander, frangipani, bougainvillea and hibiscus scent the warm breezes of the Gulf Stream.

High season in Bermuda, located roughly 1,000 kilometres east of the North Carolina coastline, runs from April through October. But many Canadians visit during the sub-tropical island's more temperate winter months, when daytime highs average just below 20 C, room rates are reduced, and tee times at top courses are readily available.

Though just 54 square kilometres in size, Bermuda is remarkably rich in world-class golf courses. The sport has been a major tourist draw since the early 1920s, when Riddell's Bay Golf and Country Club opened on a narrow peninsula thrusting into the turquoise waters of the Great Sound. The tight fairways and small greens of architect Devereux Emmet's 5,713-yard layout offer ample challenge, especially when winds gust off the Atlantic.

Port Royal's signature 16th hole is a par three clinging to a cliff high above Whale Bay. PHOTOS: MARKETING BERMUDA

Breathtaking ocean views will help you forget your double bogeys.

A few kilometres north of Riddell's Bay is Mid Ocean Club, a superb Charles Blair Macdonald design that has symbolized Bermuda golf since opening shortly after the launch of Riddell's Bay.

Mid Ocean is where Bermuda's elite take their divots. Billionaire Ross Perot and New York's Michael Bloomberg own houses in the rolling hills overlooking the golf course. Another member, movie star Michael Douglas, became a local hero in the aftermath of hurricane Fabian in 2003 when he used his private jet to deliver chain saws and generators, then stayed for a week to help in the cleanup.

Remodelled with good judgment by the great Robert Trent Jones Sr. in 1953, Mid Ocean offers risk-and-reward golf at its best as it winds 6,520 yards through rolling inland countryside before ending dramatically with a par four that skirts the bluffs overlooking the sea.

At Mid Ocean's daunting 433-yard par-four fifth, where the fairway bends around a lake that is widest on the direct line to the green, Babe Ruth once put a dozen balls in the water before hitting a home run.

Two other popular and challenging layouts are Tucker's Point Club, a hilly Roger Rulewich redesign that is the centrepiece of a posh resort community featuring Tucker's Point Hotel and Spa; and Belmont Hills Golf Course, a remodelled 6,017-yard layout offering panoramic vistas of the Great Sound and Hamilton Harbour. Bermuda even boasts one of the world's top-ranked par-three courses, Turtle Hill Golf Club, an 18-hole, 2,962-yard beauty on the grounds of Bermuda's largest hotel, the towering pink 593-room Fairmont Southampton.

But the buzz these days is about the rejuvenated Port Royal Golf Course, which every October since 2009 has hosted the PGA Grand Slam of Golf, a made-for-TV exhibition featuring the winners of the year's four major championships.

Built in the 1960s by Trent Jones Sr. atop oceanside cliffs on the south shore, the government-owned course received a brilliant $15-million revamp several years ago by Rulewich, who worked with Jones during the original construction.

Especially unforgettable is Port Royal's signature 16th, a staggeringly gorgeous windblown par three clinging to a cliff high above Whale Bay that stretches to a heroic length of 235 yards from the back tee.

Twain had it right. With golf holes like that, heaven can wait.

After golf

- **Beaches.** Bermuda is renowned for its secluded and pristine pink sand beaches. Three of the best: Whale Bay, Astwood Cove and Jobson's Cove.
- **Snorkelling.** There are roughly 300 shipwrecks to explore in warm and clear waters offering reefs, underwater caves and a variety of marine life.

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Disney gets decadent in Hawaii

Aulani. With spas, cultural activities and plenty to keep the kids occupied, this is a dream spot for families

MAE BOWRING
life@metronews.ca

Is there a better place to take a nap than on a lounge chair by the ocean in Hawaii? CONTRIBUTED

Sunsets that'll make you speechless and postcard-worthy palm trees await at Aulani: A Disney Resort & Spa, on the western shore of O'ahu. Open for two years, the Disney property recently underwent an expansion to keep up with the flood of tourists. But this isn't the Disney resort you know. It's luxury meets the beach and when you add a sprinkle of pixie dust, Aulani is a Canadian family's dream destination. Here are the top five things to see and do.

Find humuhumu

Get ready to see each colour of the rainbow and every shade in-between when you snorkel the Rainbow Reef. Hundreds of curious tropical fish will swim by your mask to show off their beauty and if you're lucky, you'll get a glimpse of the reef's one and only humuhumu nukunuku apua'a. Hawaii's state fish, it looks like it's wearing bright blue lipstick and eye shadow.

Take a walk back in time

History and culture come to life through song and dance at the Starlit Hui. Uncle, what Hawaiians call an elder man out of respect, shares folklore while families make traditional crafts and learn how to hula under the stars. Uncle reveals tales of the mythical Menehune over a campfire as well. They are said to help the good and play tricks on the bad, so tourists are reminded to always be on their best behaviour.

Freshwater heaven detox

Being rubbed with hot rocks and sticks wouldn't normally appeal, but the lomilomi massage at the co-ed Laniwai Spa erases all real-life stress. Guests can also indulge in the outdoor water therapies of plunge pools and rainfall showers or snooze on a lounge chair amongst lush vegetation and blossoming flowers native to Hawaii. It's easy to quiet the mind when you can't hear anything at all.

Aulani's non-stop fun

Everyone squeals a little racing down the mountaintop water slide. But after the big splash comes the best part — a tube ride down the lazy river — which boasts the best view of the resort. Beach yoga or boot camp is a great way to work off all those mai tais and if the cerulean beach water doesn't call your name, the gorgeous infinity pools will. Want to make your own volcano and then blow it up? Sorry, that's only for kids during day programming at Aunty's Beach House.

Head for the North Shore

Hawaiian cuisine, sport and wildlife can be found on O'ahu's North Shore. An hour's drive from Aulani, you'll see fearless surfers catching waves and giant sea turtles coming ashore for a rest on Laniakea Beach. Bring your appetite, because the garlic shrimp at Giovanni's food truck, the Baja corn at Uncle Woody's and the rainbow shave ice from Matsumoto's are must-trys. Open for more than 60 years and made popular by surfers, the lineup for shave ice may extend down the street, but it's worth the wait.

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Adventuring

Tips for your own epic global trek

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

An around-the-world trip is something many of us dream of but the thought of planning it can be daunting.

The first step is acknowledging that it will be a lot of work. You're not just planning one holiday, you're planning 12 or 15 or 20 back to back and dealing with numerous flights, hotels, airport transfers, different currencies, languages and time zones.

You should count on being away for at least a couple of months and once you hit the road it's imperative to leave time every few days to stay on top of — and make changes to — your schedule.

Plan an itinerary that ensures you visit the spots you have always dreamed of seeing: the Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal or the Great Barrier Reef.

However, make sure to leave room for some spontaneity in your trip. Once you're on the road, the reality of travelling could have you feeling differently about places.

Book holidays within the holiday. You'll need to give yourself a rest every now and then.

Don't feel bad that you're not exploring some hidden temple or touring a museum. Sometimes you just need to plant yourself in a beach chair with a drink in hand.

The more obscure the places you want to hit, the more expensive your ticket will likely be. Stopping in major hub cities like London, Sydney and Bangkok will keep the price of your plane ticket down. Purchase your ticket with an airline that is part of a larger alliance, like Air Canada and Star Alliance, which gives you the option to fly on more than 25 airlines as part of your ticket. Remember that round-the-world plane tickets will keep you moving from east to west or vice-versa; you can't go backwards.

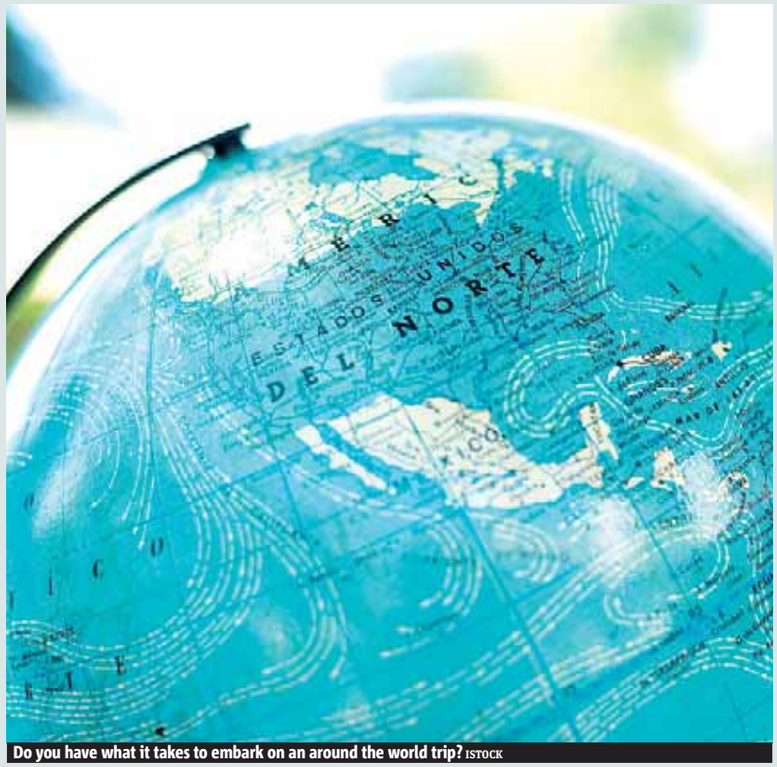
Pack light, but also pack what you like to wear. You're going to be wearing the same clothes again and again, through countless layovers, different climates and a variety of cultures. While shopping may be enticing, lugging around what you buy for weeks or months will quickly become cumbersome.

Don't be afraid to go alone. My friend @MSiddiqi is currently on month six of a solo trip and loving it.

If you are travelling by yourself you will meet other people easier than if you were travelling with a companion.

The opportunity to move at your own pace is an added bonus of travelling alone.

A round the world trip can be a costly, time-consuming endeavour, but the rewards are priceless.



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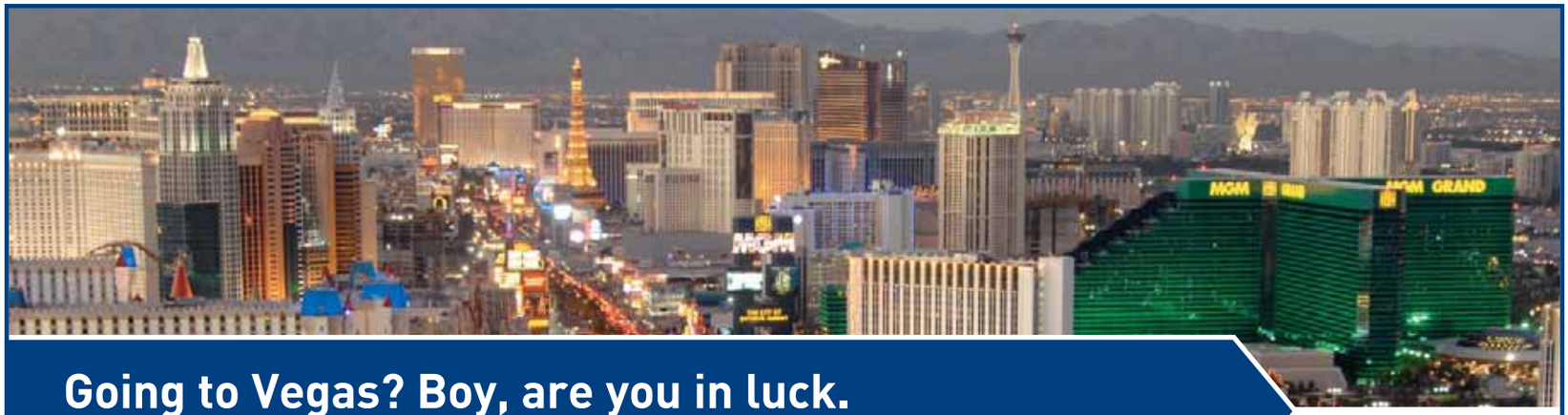

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Move over pumpkins, it's orange's time to shine in the kitchen

Orange Pound Cake

This recipe serves 12. ROSE REISMAN

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

If you love pound cakes but don't want to add on the pounds, this is a perfect dessert or snack in the afternoon. The cream cheese gives the cake a creamy and buttery texture without the calories and the fat.

For the record, each serving contains 214 calories and 7.6 grams of fat.

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray a 9- X 5-inch loaf pan with cooking spray.

Nutritional analysis

Per serving: 241 calories, 4.5 g protein, 7.6 g total fat, 1.9 saturated fat, 40 g carbohydrates, 42 mg cholesterol 42 mg

Ingredients

Cake
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 oz light cream cheese, softened
- 1 tbsp grated orange rind
- 1 tbsp poppy seeds
- 1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 2/3 cup low-fat sour cream

Icing
- 1 oz light cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup icing sugar
- 1 tbsp fresh orange juice

Garnish
- Poppy seeds and/or grated orange rind

2. To make cake: In a food processor or in a large bowl and using an electric mixer, beat eggs, sugar, orange juice, oil, cream cheese, orange rind, and poppy seeds until smooth. In another bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, and baking soda; into cream cheese mixture, alternately stir flour mixture and sour cream, making three additions of each. Pour into prepared pan.

3. Bake in the centre of oven for 45 to 50 minutes or until a tester inserted in centre of cake comes out clean. Remove from pan and cool completely on a wire rack.

4. To make icing: In a food processor or in a bowl and using an electric mixer, beat all icing ingredients together. Spread over top of cake. Garnish with poppy seeds and/or orange rind.

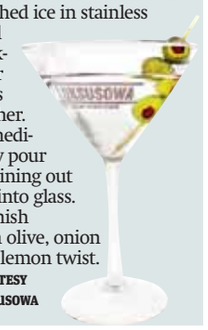
Drink of the Week

The Perfect Martini

- 2 oz Luksusowa Vodka
- 1/4 to 1/2 oz dry vermouth
- Crushed ice
- Olive, onion or a lemon twist

Tools
- Stainless steel shaker or glass pitcher with spoon and strainer
- Atomizer
- Martini or rock glass
- Condiment pick or zester (depending on selected garnish)

Use chilled martini or rock glass. Sparingly atomize inside of glass with the dry vermouth (less vermouth equals a martini that is more dry). Gently shake or stir Luksusowa Vodka with crushed ice in stainless steel shaker or glass pitcher. Immediately pour (straining out ice) into glass. Garnish with olive, onion or a lemon twist. COURTESY LUKSUSOWA



Ingredients

Crust
- 1 cup (250 ml) graham cracker crumbs
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter or margarine, melted

Filling
- 2 pkgs (250 g each) light cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) granulated sugar
- 6 x 100 ml containers (about 2 cups/500 ml) Yoplait Yopa! Greek Yogurt – Mmmm Mango Tango
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) all-purpose flour
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup (250 ml) finely mashed mango (about 1 mango)
- Additional chopped mango for garnish

Dessert. Light Mango Cheesecake

Sweet, tropical mango flavours healthy enough for an everyday indulgence?

It's possible with this unique take on the classic cheesecake recipe.

1. Heat oven to 300 F (150 C). Line bottom of 9-inch (23 cm) spring form pan with parchment paper or spray with non-stick cooking spray.

2. Combine crust ingredients and press into spring form pan. Bake 10 minutes. Cool on wire rack.

3. In medium bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes. Add yogurt and flour and beat until smooth.

4. Add eggs one at a time and beat on low until blended.

5. Fold in mashed mango. Pour cheesecake into prepared pan.

6. Bake 1 hour or until centre is slightly jiggly. Turn off oven; let cool in oven 20 minutes with door closed.

7. Remove from oven; run knife around side of pan to loosen. Cool on wire rack 2 hours. Cover; refrigerate 4 hours. Carefully remove sides of pan.

8. Garnish with chopped mango. COURTESY YOPLAIT CANADA

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Tales of Twitter gone terribly awry

Watch what you web. Can you be formally disciplined by your employer for your tweets, comments and postings? History tells us, yes.

PARISA NIKFARJAM
TalentEgg.ca

The social media world has become more expansive, and more a part of our everyday routine, so it should be no wonder that it has seeped into our working life as well.

Social media can be a great platform for self or company promotion (think how vast your reach is on LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook), but at the same time, it can spell demotions, suspensions and terminations.

A perusal of the news is a testament of the career-damaging potential of social media.

Real world examples

Ontario Hockey League

Take for example Joe Monette, an Ontario Hockey League referee, who was suspended for his online posts.

After officiating a game in Sault Ste Marie, Monette took to Twitter and tweeted the following: "Soo Saint Mari, two words, Slim Pickens. #noteeth #hicktown #allfaties."

Not surprisingly, the residents of Sault Ste Marie did not appreciate the comment, and uproar quickly ensued.

In an attempt to quell the upset caused by his tweet, Monette subsequently tweeted: "My tweet last night was not meant to be offensive and was meant as a joke between myself and a buddy of mine that lives in the Soo. I apologize if I offended anybody."

The OHL was not satisfied with Monette's blanket apology, and suspended him for the rest of the season and playoffs.

Mr. Big & Tall Menswear

Following the death of Amanda Todd, a 15-year-old British Columbia teen who took her own life after years of bullying, a Facebook memorial wall was created in her honour. Justin Hutchings of London, Ont., posted a profane comment to that memorial wall, which suggested that he was glad the teen had taken her life.

Hutchings' employer, Mr. Big & Tall Menswear was readily identifiable on his Facebook account. Upon learning of the posting, the company immediately terminated Hutchings' employment. Kamy Scarlett, senior vice-president of store operations and corporate HR with the employer, commented that the termination was based on their "zero tolerance for the mistreatment of others no matter what form it takes."

Kent Police

Just outside of another city of London (this time in England), a teen named Paris Brown, who had recently been appointed the first youth police and crime commissioner for Kent, faced similar outrage when her tweets were published in the local newspaper.

In that regard, Brown's tweets bragged about her drinking and drug use, criticized the local pizzeria employees for not speaking "proper English" and included various racist and homophobic comments.

While members of the British Parliament called for Brown's resignation, Brown defended herself by stating that the tweets were taken out of context and that she was "wildly exaggerating" on Twitter.

Despite Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes' supportive statement that Brown's tweets were not unlike the posts of many other teenagers on social media, Brown ultimately resigned.

These recent examples seem to contradict the conventional wisdom that what employees do on their own time is their own business.

Regardless of whether or not an employee's online comments/conduct rises to the level of "just cause" for termination without notice and severance, it remains an employer's prerogative to proceed with a "not for cause" dismissal, and provide appropriate termination arrangements.

In other words, an ill-advised social media post may cost you your job regardless of whether or not it represents "just cause."

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Employment-related misconduct

What has emerged from recent cases is that employers can take the position that an employee's off-site and off-duty conduct online will constitute employment-related misconduct if:

- The employee's conduct harms the employer's reputation.
- The employee's conduct makes the employee unable to perform his/her duties satisfactorily.
- The employee's conduct leads to refusal, reluctance or inability of the other employees to work with him/her (think blogs/posts criticizing coworkers!).
- The employee's conduct makes it difficult for the employer to properly carry out its function of managing its business and efficiently directing its workforce.

If you don't "like" the idea of being let go, then be careful what you cast out into the social sphere. ISTOCK

It's not all just PowerPoint and poppyseed muffins

Meet your first meeting head-on.
The three Ps of giving any new boardroom your personal best

MEGHAN GREAVES
TalentEgg.ca

Have all of your materials prepared the day before to ensure you don't forget anything. ISTOCK

One of the many new things you'll do when starting a new job is attend your very first meeting! Not a big deal, right?

Actually, good performance at meetings could make or break your career. Here's how to excel in your first meeting.

Prepare
This might seem obvious, but "prepare" doesn't mean showing up to the meeting ready to take pages of notes. Be ready to do that, but also think about getting enough sleep the night before. You need to avoid being drowsy half way through.

To maximize your staying power, pick an appropriate but comfortable outfit, eat at the right time so your tummy doesn't start grumbling and be well aware of the meeting's focus.

Be present
It's very important to show that you're both physically and mentally present during the meeting. Do this by:

- Listening and taking notes as necessary. Try to keep all of your questions until the end where there will likely be a question period. Your question might get answered in the meantime.
- Showing that you're interested. Even simply nodding your head when someone makes a good point or smiling at a creative idea shows that you're invested and interested in the meeting.

Participate
During your first meeting you likely won't need to say much (phew!). This doesn't mean you need to stay silent though.

By communicating professionally (i.e. get your thoughts together before you speak), you can answer questions when addressed or make comments when appropriate. Remember: This is your first meeting, you don't want to ramble on and make yourself look unprofessional.

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Djokovic still has Nadal's top spot in his sights

Novak Djokovic returns to Roger Federer at the ATP World Tour Finals on Tuesday at the O2 Arena in London, England. Djokovic defeated Federer 6-4, 6-7 (2), 6-2, keeping alive his chances of overtaking Rafael Nadal in the race for the year-end No. 1 spot. KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cavaliers' No. 1 pick Bennett stuck at zero

NBA. First-ever Canadian to be taken first overall has yet to score a basket through four games

The No. 1 overall pick is still looking for basket No. 1.

Anthony Bennett, the first player taken in this year's NBA draft, hasn't scored a field goal for the Cavaliers.

Through four games, Cleveland's burly forward from Brampton, Ont., has missed each of his 15 shots from the field, including eight three-pointers. He appears lost with the ball in his hands, causing some to wonder if the Cavs made a mistake with their choice.

He's 0-for-the-season so far.

According to STATS, Bennett is just the fifth rookie — playing a minimum of five minutes — to begin his career without making a field goal in the first four games. None of the other four, though, were selected No. 1.

Cavs coach Mike Brown said there are several reasons for Bennett's drought.

"He's probably pressing to a certain degree," Brown said after practice Tuesday. "So it's probably a little of that and a little bit of being on a big stage now in the regular season with it counting."

For comparison's sake, Philadelphia 76ers rookie Michael Carter-Williams has 26 field goals already, and eight other rookies who have attempted at least 15 shots have put one shot through the rim.

The 20-year-old Bennett showed flashes of offensive firepower during the exhibition season, but the regular season has been nothing but a series of missed shots. He is 2-for-4 at the free-throw line, with each attempt coming in his NBA debut against Brooklyn.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Once he figures out how hard he has to play offensively in order for it to happen on a possession by possession occurrence, he'll be good."

Cavs coach Mike Brown, on No. 1 pick Anthony Bennett.

Men's hockey

Ryerson forfeits 2 games for road-trip drinking

The Ryerson Rams men's hockey team has taken a serious hit to its record — and its reputation.

Ryerson will forfeit two games during a seven-day suspension for "consumption of alcohol" during the team's recent pre-season trip to New Jersey. Head coach Graham Wise was suspended for four games and each player will have to perform 20 hours of community service.

"The men's hockey team was involved in a violation of the student-athlete code of conduct," Ryerson athletics director Ivan Joseph said Tuesday. "Upon investigation and finding that they were culpable, we moved toward suspending the men's team and members of the staff."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Olympics

Canada sets up phone line to crack down on doping

With the Sochi Winter Olympics fast approaching, overseers of Canada's elite athletes are hoping to avoid a post-podium national embarrassment.

In an effort to catch cheaters, the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport launched an anonymous snitch line Tuesday where athletes and others connected to sport can report allegations of doping.

Canadians want every effort to be made to prevent an embarrassing spectacle in Sochi, centre president and CEO Paul Melia said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LeBron James rises to the basket past Raptors centre Jonas Valanciunas during the Heat's 104-95 win on Tuesday at Air Canada Centre. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

LeBron figures doubly into Heat's win at ACC

Miami Heat star LeBron James scored on a put-back dunk towards the end of the first quarter Tuesday against the Toronto Raptors to record his 500th consecutive game in double figures.

It was also a Miami franchise-record 222nd straight game in double figures.

James finished the game with a season-high 35 points in a 104-95 Miami win. He also had eight rebounds and eight assists.

On Tuesday

Heat	Raptors
104	95

James ranks sixth on the NBA's all-time list of double-figure scoring streaks.

Michael Jordan leads with 866 games. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is second (787) followed by Karl Malone (575), Moses Malone (526) and Abdul-Jabbar again (508).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trade for centre not a priority for Leafs

NHL. Nonis would have to break up young core for trade chips

The loss of centres Dave Bolland and Tyler Bozak seems to have created a panic in Leaf Nation. The team, goes the logic, hasn't had a bona fide No. 1 centre since the departure of Mats Sundin. So now it must go get one because Bolland and Bozak are hurt.

Trade James Reimer, they say. Trade Jake Gardiner, they say. Trade, trade, trade. Get a centre.

Calm down, everybody.

"Injuries happen," said Leafs forward Joffrey Lupul. "You're not going to panic. It's part of hockey. Look around the NHL. I doubt you could find a team with a whole lineup healthy. That's just what happens."

Do you really want GM Dave Nonis to start dismantling everything he's put together — a team that is building for a long positive future for the next three-to-five years — just because two players are hurt? Remember, the more desperate a team is, the higher the price.

The Leafs are 10-5-0. A nice cushion they've built despite some serious flaws in their game.

Breaking up the roster would seem to be folly, creating a hole at one position to fill a hole at another.

The capital the Leafs do have to spend is in wins: If Bozak, for example, misses another seven games — he's eligible to play Nov. 21 against Nashville — the Leafs could go 1-6-0 and still be at .500. They would have weathered the worst (one presumes) and still be in the top half of the Eastern Conference standings.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tyler Bozak remains out of the Leafs lineup due to a hamstring injury. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

On the market

What centres could be available? The usual suspects come from a list of pending unrestricted free agents on teams that don't have Stanley Cup aspirations.

- **Marcel Goc,** Florida Panthers ($1.7-million cap hit).
- **Dominic Moore,** N.Y. Rangers ($1-million cap hit).
- **Vern Fiddler,** Dallas Stars ($1.8-million cap hit).

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Tampa Bay	14	10	4	0	47	35	20
Toronto	15	10	5	0	48	36	20
Detroit	16	9	5	2	40	41	20
Boston	13	8	5	0	36	25	16
Montreal	15	8	7	0	41	31	16
Ottawa	14	4	6	4	42	47	12
Florida	14	3	8	3	28	49	9
Buffalo	16	2	13	1	26	49	5

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	15	11	4	0	48	33	22
NY Islanders	14	6	5	3	45	44	15
Washington	14	7	7	0	44	40	14
NY Rangers	14	6	8	0	26	40	12
Carolina	14	4	7	3	27	44	11
Columbus	13	5	8	0	33	36	10
New Jersey	14	3	7	4	26	42	10
Philadelphia	13	4	9	0	21	37	8

Tuesday's results
Dallas at Boston
Ottawa at Columbus
NY Islanders at Washington
Edmonton at Florida
St. Louis at Montreal
Philadelphia at Carolina
Calgary at Minnesota
Vancouver at Phoenix
Buffalo at San Jose

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Colorado	13	12	1	0	42	19	24
Chicago	15	9	2	4	52	42	22
Minnesota	15	8	4	3	38	34	19
St. Louis	12	8	2	2	44	29	18
Nashville	14	7	5	2	31	40	16
Dallas	14	6	6	2	37	42	14
Winnipeg	16	6	8	2	39	47	14

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	16	12	3	1	52	40	25
San Jose	14	10	1	3	53	27	23
Phoenix	15	10	3	2	51	46	22
Vancouver	16	10	5	1	46	41	21
Los Angeles	15	9	6	0	43	40	18
Calgary	14	6	6	2	42	49	14
Edmonton	15	3	10	2	36	59	8

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Monday's results
Anaheim 2 NY Rangers 1
Winnipeg 4 Detroit 2
Sunday's results
Dallas 4 Ottawa 3 (SO)
Calgary 3 Chicago 2 (OT)
Minnesota 4 New Jersey 0
Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Pittsburgh at NY Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Nashville at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

MLS PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

NEW YORK VS. HOUSTON

Sunday's result
Leg 1 — New York 2 Houston 2
Wednesday's game — All Times Eastern
Leg 2 — Houston at New York, 8 p.m.

SPORTING KC VS. NEW ENGLAND

Saturday's result
Leg 1 — New England 2 Sporting KC 1
Wednesday's game
Leg 2 — New England at Sporting KC, 9 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

PORTLAND VS. SEATTLE

Saturday's result
Leg 1 — Portland 2 Seattle 1
Thursday's game
Leg 2 — Seattle at Portland, 11 p.m.

REAL SALT LAKE VS. LA GALAXY

Sunday's result
Leg 1 — LA Galaxy 1 Real Salt Lake 0
Thursday's game
Leg 2 — LA Galaxy at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	3	0	1.000	—
Philadelphia	3	1	.750	1/2
Toronto	2	1	.667	1
Miami	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Detroit	2	1	.667	1
Orlando	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Cleveland	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Chicago	1	2	.333	2
New York	1	2	.333	2
Atlanta	1	2	.333	2
Charlotte	1	2	.333	2
Milwaukee	1	2	.333	2
Brooklyn	1	2	.333	2
Washington	0	3	.000	3
Boston	0	4	.000	3 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	3	1	.750	—
Golden State	3	1	.750	—
Houston	3	1	.750	—
Minnesota	3	1	.750	—
Oklahoma City	2	1	.667	1/2
Phoenix	2	1	.667	1/2
Portland	2	1	.667	1/2
San Antonio	2	1	.667	1/2
Dallas	2	1	.667	1/2
L.A. Lakers	2	2	.500	1
Memphis	2	2	.500	1
New Orleans	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Sacramento	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Denver	0	2	.000	2
Utah	0	3	.000	2 1/2

Tuesday's results
Miami at Toronto
Utah at Brooklyn
Charlotte at New York
Indiana at Detroit
Phoenix at New Orleans
L.A. Lakers at Dallas
San Antonio at Denver
Atlanta at Sacramento
Houston at Portland
Monday's results
Golden State 110 Philadelphia 90
Cleveland 93 Minnesota 92
Memphis 95 Boston 88
L.A. Clippers 137 Houston 118

CFL PLAYOFFS

DIVISION SEMIFINALS

EAST DIVISION

Sunday's game — All Times Eastern
Montreal vs. Hamilton (at Guelph, Ont.), 1 p.m.

WEST DIVISION

Sunday's game
B.C. at Saskatchewan, 4:30 p.m.
Byes: Toronto (East), Calgary (West)

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2014 Ram EcoDiesel

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

Review. That thing got a Hemi engine? Nope. Something better

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

As light-duty pickup trucks go, the upgraded-for-2013 Chrysler-built Ram (neé Dodge) is among the best in the business. It has to be to keep pace with the Ford F-150, General Motors' recently renewed Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra, plus maintain its considerable lead over the Toyota Tundra and Nissan Titan.

For 2014, all three domestic pickups offer relatively stout base V6 engines — around the 300-horsepower mark — and impressive levels of fuel conservation. However Ram has taken what for many is the next logical step by adding a turbo-diesel (EcoDiesel in Ram-speak) to its V6 and V8 lineup.

Although a mainstay of the Ram's tougher HD models, there has been no turbo-diesel in the lighter 1500-series pickups. But the new EcoDiesel's timing is ideal since Nissan has a diesel in the works for the next-generation Titan pickup and GM is reportedly developing its own version for the Sierra/Silverado. As Chrysler proved years ago with the 1984 minivan launch, the first one over the wall risks getting bloodied, but also stands to gain a significant advantage over those who follow.

For the 1500-series application, Ram is using the same 3.0-litre turbo-diesel V6 that's optional in the Jeep Grand Cherokee. The engine, which originates from a company in Italy that's now 100 per cent Chrysler-Fiat-owned since former partner GM sold its share, produces 240 horsepower and 420 pound-feet of torque. The engine connects to an eight-speed automatic transmission, as does the 3.6 gas engine, while the V8 comes with a six-speed that can be swapped for the eight-speed.

The Ram EcoDiesel can tow up to 7,200 pounds (3,270 kilograms), which is about the same as the 3.6 V6. The diesel can be added to nearly all of the Ram 1500's trim levels, cab configurations and rear- and four-wheel drivelines, from the near-base ST Quad Cab to the loaded-up Laramie Limited Crew Cab.

Only the base ST regular cab is omitted from the list. Of course there's nothing particularly "Eco" about the Ram 1500 EcoDiesel, or any other 2,700-kilogram brute that burns fossil fuel, but at least the EcoDiesel is cleaner than diesels of old.

As is the case with other automakers' diesels, the Ram's exhaust is treated with a urea-based solution that chemically neutralizes the nasty stuff before exiting the tailpipe. That makes the engine clean enough to pass muster throughout every jurisdiction in North America, but it also means that the urea solution tank will require replenishment every 16,000 kilometres or so.

Fitting the turbo-diesel option to your Ram won't be cheap. Expect $3,000 over and above the price of a 5.7-litre V8, and about $5,000 more than the base V6. That would peg the entry fee in the $33,500 range, including destination charges.

There might not be much payback over the short haul, other than sheer torque, but Chrysler figures about 15 to 20 per cent of Ram customers — likely those who plan on racking up plenty of kilometres over many years — will find taking the EcoDiesel route too tempting to pass up.

Compare

1 Ford F-150
Base price: $24,250

2 Chevrolet Silverado
Base price: $27,950

2014 Ram EcoDiesel

- **Type.** Two- /Four-door, front- / four-wheel-drive pickup truck
- **Engines (hp).** 3.0-litre DOHC V6, turbo-diesel (240)
- **Transmissions.** Eight-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination)** $33,500

Torque

For serious truckers it's torque that matters most and the EcoDiesel handily beats Ram's base 3.6-litre V6 with its 269-pound-feet and the optional 5.7-litre V8's 410 pound-feet. While the V8's peak torque is close, it comes much higher in the rev range than the diesel's.

Fuel economy

As for fuel economy, Chrysler isn't spilling the precise beans just yet, but based on the numbers earned by the Grand Cherokee, somewhere in the vicinity of 10.0 l/100 km in the city and 7.5 on the highway seems plausible. That would be an improvement compared to the base V6's 11.4/7.8 and the V8's 14.1/9.3 official numbers.

DRIVE

Is this really someone's garage?

Autoknow. Because it looks like a place where stuff goes to die.

LISA CALVI
wheelbasemedia.com

Fall cleanup generally refers to raking leaves. If you could only find the rake. And your work gloves. Wow, what happened to the garage?

In one corner, an assortment of crap that Peter Walsh simply calls the "are-you-kidding-me?" pile. Across the way, there's a dateless stack of seasonal "stuff" apparently meant to celebrate the spirit of Christmas.

Walsh, the famous Clutter Buster from the Oprah Winfrey Show, is trying to develop a cleanup plan as he scans this jumbled mess that includes everything from pet carriers and sports equipment to 1970s music posters and cans of engine oil that may be older.

Sound familiar?

Without detection, your garage has again transformed from an organized storage space into a purgatory for items that fit nowhere else. A walk-in junk drawer, if you will. "Garages are the elephant burial ground of the 21st century," Walsh said in an article posted on Oprah.com. "Stuff goes in. Stuff never comes out."

So what's the best approach to sorting and cleaning garage clutter without going missing while you're on the job site?

Walsh offers a simple and inexpensive three-step plan to help reclaim and organize your estranged garage space.

Step 1: Take full inventory and spare no prisoners.
Any garage makeover must start with what Walsh calls "clutter-cide," a test of separation anxiety that forces folks to let go of things "I might need someday." Every item goes in one of four piles: keep; sell; donate; or dumpster. The memories in the mess often make this step difficult to get through, but keeping the sentiment out of the cleanup makes the garage a happier place.
A good rule of thumb is if you haven't needed something in the last year, you won't need it in the next decade.

Step 2: Mark your turf.
Obviously, adequate parking space is the top priority in most garages. But holiday decorations, gardening tools and sports gear are also storage staples. To keep common items best organized, Walsh stressed that using tape or paint to divide the garage into specific storage "zones" makes certain that Santa isn't sharing his space with a common lawn gnome.

"When everything has a designated area," Walsh said, "you always know where it belongs, which helps set limits on volume."
Specific storage zones will also help everyone know visually what goes where, and increase the odds the baseball bat gets returned to sporting goods and not put into auto parts. Pegboard is another cheap and easy way to hang tools and keep your garage organized when the toolbox becomes too stuffed to latch.

Step 3: Store with purpose.
This is the part of the process where inventory clearance and space management show desired results. Storing boxes vertically maximizes garage space and keeps property best organized. And Walsh stresses that plastic bins are the only way to store because they can be stacked, they are sturdy and they come in different colours and sizes for easy inventory recognition. Being liquid proof also has its advantages in a garage setting. All bins should be colour-coded by contents (perhaps red for holiday), labelled and stacked where the most frequently used items are the most accessible. In a perfect garage, shelves are used for storage and nothing is kept on the floor, allowing for easy cleaning. But different budgets bring less-than-perfect options. If money is no object, garage makeover companies are popping up all over the Internet and elsewhere.

The Clutter isn't just an organizational problem. How many of you think there's no way that this classic Mustang will escape scratches with all this going on around it?

All those scraps of wood around the garage can be used to make shelving to get stuff off the floor. Or to get your old TV and audio gear out of the basement and into service.

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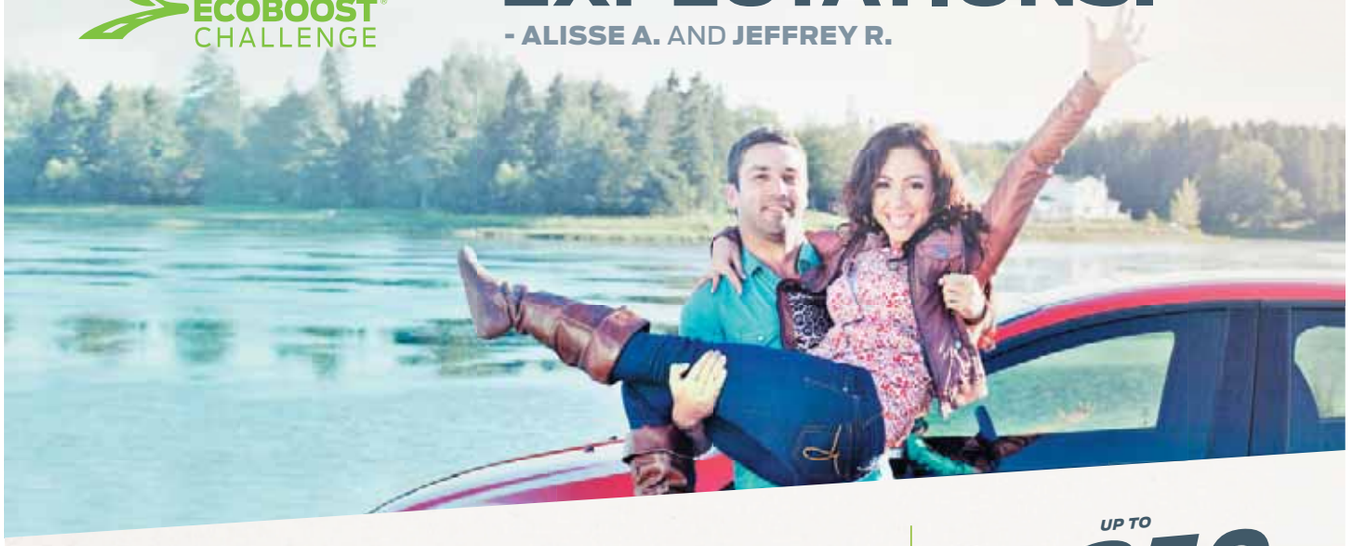

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Example: $25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 48/60/72 months, monthly payment is $520.83/ $416.66/ $347.22, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $25,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. * Until December 2, 2013. Purchase a new [2014 Escape S FWD/2014 Fiesta S Hatch]/[2013 Focus S Sedan / 2013 F-150 XLT SuperCrew 4x4/ 2013 F-150 SuperCrew Platinum 4x4 5.0L] for [$24,888/$16,058]/ [$14,498/ $31,858/$48,080] (after Manufacturer Rebate of [$500/$0]/[$3,000 / $9,250/ $9,250/ $9,250] and Winter Safety Package cash alternative of [$750/$0/$0/$0/$0] deducted). Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after total manufacturer rebate has been deducted and after Winter Safety Package cash alternative has been deducted. Offers include freight and air tax but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. 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Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada-approved test methods. Model shown is 2013 F-150 4x4 5.0L – V8 6-Speed SST. 15.1L/100 km city and 10.7L/100 km hwy. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. †† Receive a winter safety package which includes: four (4) winter tires, four (4) steel wheels and four (4) tire pressure monitoring sensors when you purchase or lease any new 2013/2014 Ford Focus (excluding S) and Focus Electric), Escape, Fusion, Edge (excluding Sport), Explorer, or Fiesta (excluding S) on or before December 2, 2013. This offer is not applicable to any Fleet (other than small fleets with an eligible FIN) or Government customers and not combinable with CPA, GPC, CFP or Daily Rental incentives. Some conditions apply. See Dealer for details. Vehicle handling characteristics, tire load index and speed rating may not be the same as factory supplied all-season tires. Winter tires are meant to be operated during winter conditions and may require a higher cold inflation pressure than all-season tires. Consult your Ford of Canada dealer for details including applicable warranty coverage. ^F-Series is the best-selling pickup truck in Canada for 47 years in a row based on Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association statistical sales report, December 2012. ©2013 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under licence. ©2013 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

Hey big spender: Going global takes whole lot of green

Driving force. Automakers spend big and research on a grand scale to see if we the consumer will buy a global model

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

While almost all automakers sell their cars and trucks in various markets around the world, not every model makes it into every market. It takes an enormous amount of research, time and money to determine which vehicles, or which engines or body configurations, should be brought to the Canadian market.

"We look at where we see trends going, such as a move toward smaller-displacement engines and improved fuel efficiency," says Matthew Wilson, product planning manager for BMW Canada. "Different markets have different demands for engines because of regulations and taxes."

Importing factors

- **Money.** Global currency rates can affect importation decisions. If the originating country's currency is high, the car may be too expensive for the Canadian market.
- **Extra costs.** Adding accessories for North Americans, such as cupholders, or speedometers in miles and kilometres, increases the cost of importing vehicles.

Europe has emissions and crash-test standards that differ from North America's requirements, and it's very expensive to run vehicles through the tests required here, especially if changes have to be made to meet them. Because Canada is a relatively small market, automakers here tend to work with their U.S. counterparts on models that will be sold in both countries, to get the volume needed to cover these costs.

Canadians love the BMW 5-Series wagon but not enough for BMW to import it. PHOTO: BMW

Once a car meets the requirements, the company then has the expense of importing, stocking, and marketing it. If the vehicle won't sell enough copies to cover this, it isn't a viable candidate to import.

Wilson says that while the BMW 5 Series Touring station wagon is popular in overseas markets, it's no longer offered in Canada for this reason. "We used to have it, but the market is extremely small," he says. "We only had a potential 100 to 150 units per year in Canada, so we've opted not to bring it. The buyers (who want wagons) are vocal, as are those who like manual transmissions, but the volume potential is extremely small and doesn't justify the cost."

Diesel fuel is also a big question, since it's not yet as popular in North America as it is overseas. In Europe, some cars may offer as many as three different diesel engines, with only a single gasoline engine. "On the current-generation 3 Series, we have three gas engines but one diesel," Wilson says. "It's a smaller market here, whereas in Europe, diesels are 70 to 80 per cent of the market."

Automakers also have to look at how a new model will fit into the current lineup. One that's similar in size or price to an existing model could potentially take sales away from it or lose customers to it, reducing the sales volumes that each needs to cover the fixed costs of bringing it to the Canadian market.

Choosing carefully

"Different markets have different demands for engines because of regulations and taxes."
Matthew Wilson, product planning manager for BMW Canada

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The last ride

It's not always easy to contemplate, but death is a fact of life and we're all going to take that one last ride someday. Why not do it in style and put a smile on your loved-one's faces with an automotive-themed urn from Last Rides of Tucson, Ariz. The company will handcraft a personalized container featuring a exact scale replica of your (or your beloved's) favourite vehicle, be it a hot rod, muscle car, or any other car or motorcycle. That seems a lot better than some anonymous porcelain vase perched on the mantle. There is no set price for these memorials since each one is created to your exact specifications. The company has also recently added a line of upright-style memorial

Prevent the big bounce

Anyone who has had to trailer their rare/expensive hobby or racecar (or any vehicle, for that matter) lives in fear that their precious cargo could be damaged in transit. One way to reduce that possibility is with the Chassis Stabilizer from Mac's Tie Downs. This item consists of a sturdy rubber bladder that, once inflated by compressed air (up to 20 pounds per square inch) and strategically positioned beneath the vehicle, significantly reduces the severity of undulations due to uneven (or rough) road surfaces, thereby reducing the risk of damage. The Chassis Stabilizer sells for $300 US and can be purchased directly from the manufacturer at macscustomtie-downs.com.

A must for gusts

Just because you installed a specially fitted cover over your prized ride, it doesn't mean it's now completely safe from the elements. A strong wind can cause the cover to flap in the breeze (causing paint damage), or even detach itself from your vehicle. One way to prevent this from happening is with a set of Gust Guards. Each set comes with four specially designed clamps that securely attach to each corner of the cover (that you supply) along with two bungee cords that attach underneath the body between the front and rear axles. There are 30- , 60- and 90-centimetre lengths available to fit covers for automobiles, motorcycles or other applications such as for bicycles, barbecues and picnic tables. Prices range from $12- $13 US per set from gustguard.com.

It's a dog's life

If your dog rides with you, chances are that Rover likes to stick his head out the window while taking in some fresh air and other intriguing scents. That isn't necessarily the safest activity for your pet, whether you're on the move or parked. The BreezeGuard from Muttmanagers keeps your dog safe behind a protective steel mesh screen that securely attaches inside the frame of your vehicle's door. And best of all you can still roll your windows up and down with the BreezeGuard in place. You can order a single BreezeGuard for $115 US. Get all the details at muttmanagers.com

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2014 Mazda 3 Sport

GT Model Shown
MODEL CODE: D5SK64 AA00

$188/per month
48 Month lease
$1,695 down Excludes HST

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE: 2.0L skyactive engine, 155HP, 6 speed transmission, Bluetooth CD/AM/FM 4 speakers, Push button start, USB input Disc brakes, ABS, Traction control, 6 air bags, 16" wheels, Key less entry, Power windows, Power mirrors, Power locks

2014 Mazda 6

GT Model Shown
MODEL CODE: G4XL64 AA00

$313/per month
48 Month lease
$1,695 down

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE: 2.5 L Skyactive Engine, 184HP, 6 Speed transmission, Heated front seats, 5.8' colour touch screen, Push button start, USB input, LED tail lights, 17" alloys wheels, Blue tooth, Cruise control, Trip computer, Ventilated disc brakes Traction control, 6 air bags

2014 Mazda CX 5

GT Model Shown
MODEL CODE: NVXK64 AA00

$299/per month
48 Month lease
$1,895 down

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE: 2.0L Skyactive engine, 155HP, 6 speed transmission, Cruise control , CD/AM/FM 4 speakers, Push button start, USB input Key less entry, Disc brakes, ABS, Traction control, 6 air bags, 16" wheels, Power windows , Power mirrors

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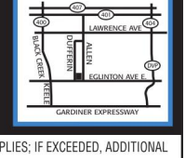

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Introducing the Dodge Can'avan

All for a good cause. Creation will help raise poverty awareness

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

To the list of vehicles constructed over the years with wacky materials add the Dodge Can'avan, made entirely of approximately 30,000 cans of food.

Thirty volunteers built the van of can in about 10 hours at Toronto's Dundas Square last week. It stood on display for a few days, then was disassembled and donated to the Daily Bread Food Bank. It's likely half-eaten by now.

The builders or "can-geneers" were local students, and members of Canstruction. The U.S.-based non-profit agency goes around the world organizing groups to create structures entirely out of canned goods, to help raise awareness of poverty and hunger issues, and to get math, science and technology students pumped up about their futures in engineering, and in community service.

Chrysler thought it was a great way to help out, and to help celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Chrysler minivan, which debuted in 1983.

And like any vehicle made out of a "non-traditional" car-building material, Can'avan is also a great subject for bad puns. Does Can'avan have any working doors? No, just a can opener. "Can" you actually drive it? No, you "can't." Plans for a production version have been "canned." Etcetera.

Building vehicle sculptures out of odd materials is almost an art form of sorts. Let's revisit a few famous ones…

Chevrolet of Cheese
Last year, when The American Dairy Association (ADA) sponsored Terry Labonte's NASCAR program, the ADA commissioned a full-scale "cheese" sculpture of Labonte's Chevrolet racer. Carved from 3,500 pounds of yellow cheddar, it held the title of "The World's Cheesiest Car," which really cheesed off a Gouda-based competitor, who thought the Chevy was not nearly Gouda nough.

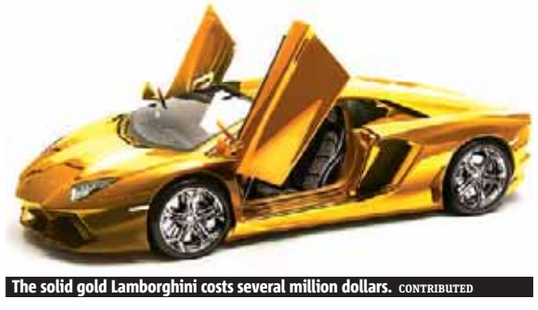
Lamborghini of Gold
German car model maker, Robert Wilhelm Gulpen, carved a 1:18 scale model Lamborghini Aventador out of solid gold. Containing 25 kg (55 pounds) of the precious metal and lots of gemstones, the model is estimated to be worth several million — lots more than a regular, full-scale $400,000-plus Aventador. I can't afford either, but especially the solid gold one.

Ferrari of Lego
This creation is a full-scale model of Ferrari's 2011 Formula 1 racer. It took a team of 16 Lego experts six months to plan and assemble the hundreds of thousands of Lego bricks. The build time could have been cut down by a few weeks, but the team insisted on keeping to their mid-afternoon schedule of naptime, story time, and snacks.

Toyota of Ice
Artists carved a full-scale Toyota Land Cruiser, complete with interior, out of solid ice for a Russian winter festival. It was super slick, but when you used the defroster the whole windshield disappeared.

Bugatti of Cigarette Packs
Engineering students in China used 10,280 cigarette packs and eight months to build a replicable of a Bugatti Veyron. No time or space for a pun. Got to butt out.

The Dodge Can'avan is probably half-eaten by now. CONTRIBUTED



The solid gold Lamborghini costs several million dollars. CONTRIBUTED

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
By all means, think big but before you put your latest plan into effect, make sure there are no obvious holes in it. Even a minor error could hold you back, so check, double check, then check again to be safe.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Try not to take out your frustrations on friends. It's not their fault you can't seem to get your act together. The only way you are going to improve your mood is to ease up and stop expecting so much of yourself.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There is a rational explanation for everything that happens. Keep that in mind today and you'll do fine. However, just because there is an explanation does not mean you will find it. Maybe the time's not right.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You may not want to admit that a colleague's big idea is better than your own but everyone else can see it so you might as well accept the fact. It's OK.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may think you have to cut back on essentials but that would be a false economy. Just because you take a step backward does not mean you will move forward any faster.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
By all means, point the finger if you can prove who the guilty party is but if there are any doubts, you must keep your suspicions to yourself. It could be you have got the bad guys and good guys mixed up.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
What you say and do must be consistent or you'll leave yourself open to charges of hypocrisy. That applies on the work front, where colleagues will not be impressed if you fail to practice what you preach.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may regret having made certain decisions but there is no need to feel sorry for yourself. Nor is there any reason to change course. All roads lead to where you need to go, so just keep walking.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You want to tell others how you feel but for some reason, the words won't come. Maybe you should take the hint and keep your feelings to yourself, at least for now.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Even a Cap takes a wrong turn sometimes so don't get angry with yourself if you have to retrace your steps today. The worst thing you can do is to blunder ahead regardless. There's a steep drop up ahead.

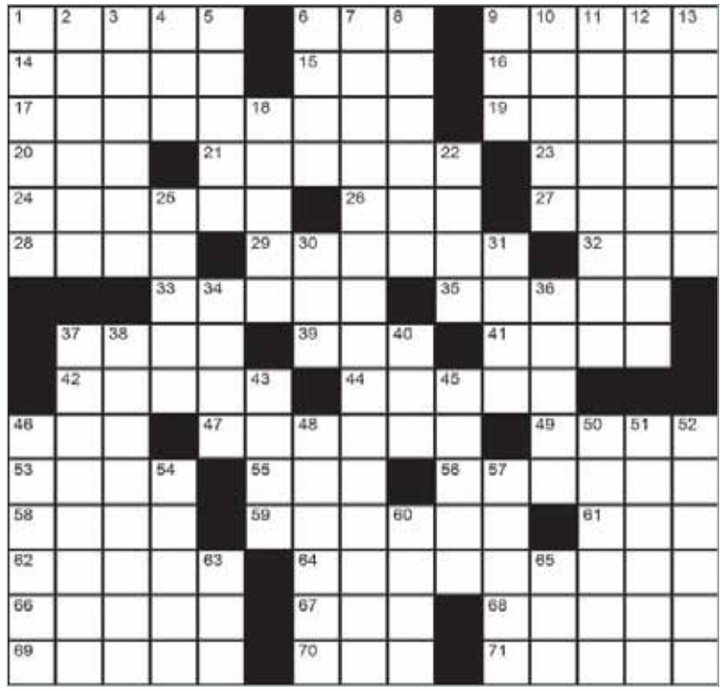
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
What is painful in the short term may be beneficial in the long term, so don't give up on what you are doing yet. The more you have to work at something, the more likely it is you will master it.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may have to be economical with the truth today, especially if there is information you need to keep out of the hands of your rivals. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



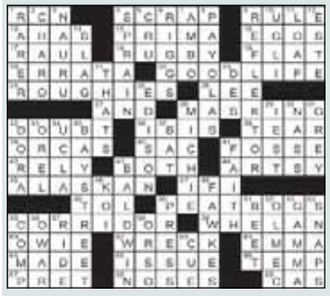
Across

1. Do cartography work again
6. Great Expectations character
9. Capital of Senegal
14. Gladden
15. Record label for Elvis
16. Mary J. of song
17. Nova Scotia community, a name Beatles fans must love
19. ArmÈe du __ = The Salvation Army
20. Tree tool
21. Indicate
23. Nero's 1502
24. Festive strands
26. Hosp. area
27. Tree trunk
28. Formerly
29. Rise
32. "Waking __ Devine" (1998)
33. Butcher shop waste
35. Succeed in life: 2 wds.
37. Dynasty of ancient China
39. __ Mahal
41. Songstress Ms. Simone
42. "The Planets" composer: Gustav __ (b.1874 - d.1934)
44. More recent
46. 'P' in MPH
47. Quash
49. Think, archaically
53. Trompe l'__ (Visual illusion)
55. Mr. Cruise
56. Stick to
58. Rocker Mr. Osbourne
59. Of service
61. FOX cartoon, "American __!"
62. Satellite of Saturn
64. Ex-RCMP officer on "Dragons' Den", Jim __
66. Tennis great Ivan
67. Sanctions
68. Faint trace
69. S s sSssS
70. Clock setting in St. John's, commonly
71. "Egads!"

Down

1. "There's not anything to which you can't __..." - Alanis Morissette, "Everything"
2. Magical potion
3. Experts
4. Lunched
5. As such, Latin style: 2 wds.
6. '70s music genre, __-Rock
7. CN Tower and Parliament Buildings, for example: 2 wds.
8. Princess' house
9. Sound loudness units [abbr.]
10. Gentle as _ __
11. Area of Winnipeg, West __
12. "The Voice" coach Christina
13. Made the score even again
18. Rice dish
22. Breather's need
25. Tavern chair
30. SNL night, for short
31. Finished
34. Be a mother hen
36. Colin of movies
37. Canadian snacks
38. Skylines
40. 'Game' in Gaspe
43. Dancer's dress
45. "__ __ live in a yellow submarine..." - The Beatles
46. Second smartest dog
48. #64-Across' restaurant chain, __ Pizza
50. Stuff in a teacher's correcting pen: 2 wds.
51. Juice source
52. Some higher-heeled shoes
54. "The Hollywood Squares" centre square occupant, Paul __
57. God
60. Top
63. Chicago trains
65. IV + III's equivalent

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	2		8					
8	9					4		6
		6		2				7
3		5		8	1			
	1						4	
			9	4		5		3
4				1		8		
6		2					7	4
					5		3	

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	8	9	3	7	1	6	5	4
7	4	3	6	8	5	2	1	9
1	5	6	2	9	4	3	8	7
6	2	1	7	4	8	5	9	3
4	9	5	1	3	6	8	7	2
3	7	8	5	2	9	4	6	1
5	3	7	9	6	2	1	4	8
8	6	2	4	1	7	9	3	5
9	1	4	8	5	3	7	2	6

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Xmas Glasgow $1099 Roundtrip Dep Dec 18 | Ret Jan 9 INCLUDES ALL TAXES & FEES

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The HMI Commander Switch allows you to intuitively control your audio, navigation and Bluetooth® with rotary, push and tilt functionality.

GT model with Technology Package shown. Fully Loaded with Firsts refers to the fact that the listed features are available on the all-new 2014 Mazda3 for the first time ever. Certain features available only on 2014 Mazda3 GS & GT models.
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